

# Jordan Times

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## Hezbollah group wins Syrian polls

HEBZOLAH group won the Syrian elections this week, Interior Minister, Mohammad Harba said Sunday. He told a news conference that 100 candidates of the National Progressive Front were elected to the 200-seat parliament. The other 100 seats were reserved for independent candidates. More than 9,000 candidates registered in the election, campaigning for eight weeks in 20 years. Harba said a total of 3.265 million registered voters of 5,376 million registered voters, representing 49.43 per cent of the total population of 10.8 million. The number of Syrian citizens and those in the security forces was taken into account. Syria's 1.2 million troops and police are not allowed to vote. Harba said the Hezbol group won 134 seats. Results for its coalition partners were Communist Party eight, Socialist Union eight, Socialist Union seven, Arab Socialist five and Arab Socialist Democratic Party four. The new parliament convenes 21 weeks. It must hold its first session within 15 days.

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## Palestinian mission on hunger strike

KHARTOUM (AP) — Members of the Palestinian mission here, including the diplomatic mission here, began a hunger and sit-in strike Sunday to show solidarity with the Palestinian people in Arab Jerusalem. The mission entered the eighth day of a hunger strike Sunday to protest the May 20 massacre of eight Arab labourers near Tel Aviv by an Israeli gunman. Abu Rajai, the Palestinian ambassador in Khartoum, said the strike was intended to demonstrate to the Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories that they were not alone in their ordeal. The ambassador who is known by his nom de guerre, said the strike was also aimed at protesting Israel's "increased brutal suppression of Palestinians." The ambassador did not say how many were taking part in the strike.

## Rafsanjani attacks West over hostages

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani attacked the West Sunday for doing nothing to help trace three Iranian missing in Lebanon or press Israel to free hundreds of Arab prisoners. Rafsanjani said the West should have stepped up efforts to determine the fate of the Iranian and free the Arab prisoners following the release of two American hostages last month. Iran played a key part in freeing Robert Pollard and Frank Reed, held hostage by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Another 15 Westerners are still in captivity. "Arafat, the West, should not stand back and tell the world why it is... making no effort to secure the release of the Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian (prisoners)," Rafsanjani told a group of visiting Lebanese in remarks broadcast by Tehran Radio.

## Labour lead over Tories slips

LONDON (R) — The opposition Labour Party's opinion poll lead over Britain's ruling Conservatives has fallen in the last month, newspaper reports said. A Mori poll appearing in early editions of the Sunday Times newspaper gave Labour 48 per cent of public support, six points lower than a month ago, and the Conservatives 35 per cent, four points higher. An opinion poll survey in the Observer newspaper showed Labour slipping four points and put the gap between the two parties at 18 per cent. The popularity of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party slumped this year largely as a result of a new local tax levied on every adult.

## Burmese opposition claims victory

RANGOON (R) — Burma's opposition said Sunday it was heading for a landslide victory in the country's first multi-party elections in 30 years even though the military government banned its most prominent leaders from standing. Thousands of supporters danced and sang outside the opposition National League for Democracy headquarters, but ended their celebrations before troops began to enforce the night curfew at 10 p.m. (1530 GMT). State radio, announcing the first result, said the league had won Rangoon's port district with 80 per cent of the vote (earlier story on page 8).

## Egypt nabs 13 with heroin in stomachs

CAIRO (R) — Police at Cairo airport caught 13 Nigerians Sunday who had swallowed capsules of heroin to smuggle them from Bangkok to Lagos, security sources said. They said five men and eight women were caught with 20 kilograms of heroin with a street value of 20 million pounds (\$7.4 million). Two of the women were pregnant. Police, working on a tipoff, had taken the Nigerians to hospital where the drugs were detected by X-ray. The sources said another five Nigerian women in transit at Cairo airport were being investigated.

# Arab leaders gather for Baghdad summit

By P.V. Vivekanand in Amman with agency dispatches

ARAB LEADERS gathered in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday for an emergency summit which is expected to discuss what is widely perceived as a pan-Arab security strategy in the face of a host of threats and challenges. However, at least five Arab heads of state were not expected at the summit — President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, President Chadi Benjedid of Algeria, Sultan Qaboos Ben Saïd of Oman, President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon and King Hassan II of Morocco. While Algeria, Oman and Morocco were sending high-level delegations, it was not clear Sunday whether Syria and Lebanon were totally staying away from the conference or will send official delegations to Baghdad. High among the agenda for the summit, called by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), are Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, the tight of Arab countries to acquire technology, the Middle East peace process, the lingering Iraq-Iraq dispute and an Egyptian call for the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons from the region.

The conference, which is being held two days before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush are scheduled to meet in Washington for their second summit, will also send strongly worded messages to the two superpowers calling for immediate action to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. "The summit will try to talk the Soviet leadership into halting the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel... the leaders also will try to get the Americans to play an even-handed policy in the Arab-Israeli conflict," according to an Arab diplomat. However, "under the circumstances, the Arabs don't have any leverage on Moscow or Washington. Conditions of Arab disunity can only encourage the Israelis to be more intransigent," said the diplomat. A 16-page memorandum from Washington, delivered to Arab foreign ministers who met in Baghdad last week to prepare for the summit, touched off a row. The memorandum urged the Arabs to avoid rhetoric, focus on direct Arab-Israeli negotiations and avoid outright denunciations of the Soviet Jewish emigration. The memorandum also accused Iraq, which says it has developed binary chemical weapons and long-range missiles which it would use to retaliate if attacked by Israel, of violating international conventions banning use of chemical and biological weapons. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz angrily dismissed the American document as "in-

accurate and insensitive."

The presence of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz was seen as significant at the summit, which comes at a time when strong signs of instability are emerging in the Middle East, whether through the massive influx of Soviet Jews which is seen as boosting Israel's resolve not to give any of the occupied Palestinian land, or through the nuclear/chemical stand-off between Israel and Iraq and what is described as a Western/American campaign against Iraq's quest to build its military might. The sweeping changes in Eastern Europe which have led to resumption of formal ties between Israel and some of the erstwhile Soviet bloc states, and the diminishing status of the Soviet Union as a staunch supporter of Arab causes add to a pressing sense of urgency for a united Arab position and action.

However, the absence of Syrian leader Assad appeared to have dealt a blow to hopes that the Baghdad summit would be a turning point in Arab history, clearing the way for the Arab states, stretching from Morocco in the west to the United Arab Emirates in the east, to adopt a unified position and action.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi made a stopover in Damascus Saturday in an unsuccessful last-ditch effort to persuade Assad to travel to Baghdad, the capital of his Baathist rival Saddam Hussein. According to Syrian spokesman Jibril Kourieh, Assad insisted that the summit should be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League in Tunis to decide a venue and prepare a detailed agenda. Assad and Qadhafi discussed the

## Qadhafi continues mediation

LIBYAN leader Muammar Qadhafi Sunday continued his efforts to ensure Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's participation in the Baghdad summit. Qadhafi, who arrived in Damascus Saturday, sent an envoy to Baghdad with a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and the envoy returned to the Syrian capital Sunday evening with a reply message from the Iraqi leader, reports said. No further details were available.

summit "in all its aspects and in light of the principles of Syria's support for holding the summit and its view that it must be prepared for thoroughly and adequately, so that it meets the purposes for which it is convened," Kourieh said. It was the same message that Assad gave to an Iraqi minister who visited Damascus last week with an invitation to Syria to attend the summit. The pressing need to address problems facing the Arab World was underscored by many of the Arab leaders arriving in Baghdad Sunday.

"There is increasing anxiety in the Arab World because of the dangers threatening the security of our nation," Sheikh Isa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa of Bahrain said. "We are going through an ex-

tremely bad period," said Qatar's Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani.

The leaders of Egypt, Kuwait and Yemen also arrived in Baghdad Sunday, joining those of Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, who came Saturday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who counts as head of Palestine, arrived with Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Saddam Hussein and his entourage broke into applause when Ali Abdullah Saleh, elected president of the new united Yemen last Tuesday, stepped out of the plane from Sanaa.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Salah said the summit was "lacking in initiative and strategy." He told reporters: "If the summit were able to muster an action plan we'd have been much better off. But as things stand, we're taking stock of scattered incidents without being able to visualise a strategy. I would say Syria is far-sighted having decided not to attend."

Algeria announced Saturday that Benjedid would also stay away. It gave no reason but Algerian officials and newspapers had said a summit without Syria was pointless.

Algerians are also concerned that the failure to list Lebanon on the summit agenda could torpedo the work of a three-member committee set up by the last Arab summit in Casablanca in May 1989 to bring peace to the fractured country. Algeria played a key role in the committee which also included Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki is representing King Hassan of Morocco at the summit.

No explanation was given why neither the king nor his elder son

## King arrives in Baghdad, meets other Arab leaders

BAGHDAD — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Sunday at the head of the Jordanian delegation to the emergency Arab summit which opens Monday. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and senior Iraqi leaders as well as Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi received the King and the accompanying delegation upon arrival. The delegation includes Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

The King was seen off upon departure from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was sworn in as Regent before the departure, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, and senior officials.

Shortly after his arrival and the welcoming ceremony, the King held talks with the leaders of Bahrain and Egypt on topics on the agenda of the summit, Jordan Television said. The Monarch was expected to meet with other Arab leaders later Sunday.

## Chief editors accompany King

For the first time, the chief editors of Jordanian newspapers are accompanying the King to an Arab summit. Mahmud Al Kayed of Al Ra'i, George Hawatmeh of the Jordan Times, Mahmud Al Sharif of Al Dustour and Sultan Hattab of Sawt Al Shaab travelled with the King to Baghdad Sunday upon a special invitation from His Majesty.

Crown Prince Sidi Mohammad will attend although Morocco has had cordial relations with Iraq for many years.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman announced he was sending a personal envoy, Thwaini Ben Shihab, to represent him.

Amid tight security, Baghdad's international airport was closed to regular traffic Sunday as the Arab

leaders arrived in private jets.

President Hussein greeted each leader as a military band played national anthems and the military fired 21-gun salutes.

Baghdad was decorated with Arab slogans, banners fluttering atop trees and lamp-posts read: "United we stand, divided we fall" and "Jerusalem is calling you O Arab leaders."

## Soldiers kill Gazan, shoot and wound at least 10

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army ended its longest curfew on the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, and troops shot dead a Palestinian when clashes erupted in a crowded refugee camp, hospital officials said. Reports said 10 other Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers as curfews confining people to their homes were lifted for more than half the 750,000 Palestinian residents of the strip. Curfew were imposed on Gaza and the West Bank on May 20 after eight Palestinian labourers were massacred by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv, setting off a wave of protests that left 15 dead and hundreds wounded. Most curfews have been lifted in the West Bank, where two Palestinians were reported wounded Sunday in a clash with soldiers in Jenin. In Gaza, about 300,000 Palestinians remained confined to their homes in Gaza City and surrounding refugee camps. Palestinian reporters said most Gazans stayed away from jobs in Israel after leaders of the Palestinian uprising urged a strike until June 7 to protest the massacre. In Rafah and Deir Al Balah, among the areas released from the curfew, Palestinians took to the streets to demonstrate, burn tyres and build stone roadblocks, prompting clashes with troops, residents said. Soldiers shot and killed Iyad Abu Diab, 17, in Deir Al Balah refugee camp. Hospital officials said Abu Diab was shot in the heart. The army reimposed a curfew on the camp, residents said. A military spokesman said the army was investigating the death, which raised to 18 number of Palestinians killed by troops or Jewish settlers since the mass murder May 20. Palestinian leaders who demanded a hunger strike last week to demand international protection of the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories said Sunday they were disappointed by the U.S. refusal to support them. Seven Jerusalem-based European consuls met the Palestinian nationalists Saturday and said they backed international supervision, while the U.S. representative said his government was prepared to discuss only a U.N. fact-finding mission. "There was marked disappointment with the American position and a clear statement that Palestinian peace overtures are being frustrated and undermined by U.S. timidity towards Israeli rejectionism," the Palestinians said in a statement. "If the United States again thwarts Palestinian efforts to involve the international community in imposing law upon Israel, American credibility will be irrevocably damaged," it added.

## 53 killed, scores injured in two Pakistani cities

HYDERABAD, Pakistan (R) — Fifty-three people were killed, many shot by police, in political and ethnic clashes Sunday in Pakistan's cities of Hyderabad and Karachi, doctors and witnesses said. Thirty-five people died in the southern city of Hyderabad when women and children protesting at police excesses were shot and killed, the doctors and witnesses said. Another 18 people died in the country's biggest city Karachi, making it one of the bloodiest weekends of ethnic hatred. Local reporters and eyewitnesses in Hyderabad said at least 20 women and two children were killed in police firing when they defied curfew restrictions and took protests to the streets in three city districts. The women, Muslim refugees from India, carried copies of the Holy Koran on their heads in a traditional sign of protest. Demanding the withdrawal of police from curfew-bound Pucca Qila, Resham Gali and Pura-bad districts of Hyderabad, around 200 women marched through the streets shouting "our children are dying" and "remove the blockades."

Police opened fire after warnings were ignored, hitting some of the protesters and people watching from the flat rooftops of the

## French troops deployed in Gabon oil port

LIBREVILLE (R) — Troop reinforcements sent from France have taken up position in Gabon's oil capital Port Gentil, where lawlessness continued after anti-government riots in the former French colony last week. A French army spokesman said Sunday: "The French army presence is becoming significant." But he declined to comment on the number of additional troops. France sent 280 troops Thursday and an unknown number arrived Saturday to take up positions in Port Gentil, 130 kilometres from the capital Libreville.

Libreville, scene of violent anti-government demonstrations last week, was calm Sunday but diplomats said trouble continued in Port Gentil. French sources said Gabonese troops in Port Gentil were trying to avoid direct confrontation with the protesters who went on a rampage last week following the suspicious death of Joseph Rend-jambe, a leading opponent of President Omar Bongo.



Israeli troops move in on a new home-urrower as others flee in Arab Jerusalem

## Labour Party report blames Peres for failure in elections

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Labour Party report released Sunday blamed party head Shimon Peres for failures in the general elections campaign, raising new calls for his resignation.

The internal report by a group of party-appointed investigators gave too much personal attention to Peres at the expense of other party members and was badly organized.

The 40-page document stated Peres bears "more responsibility" than other officials of the centre-left party but did not recommend that personal conclusions be drawn, saying party leaders are judged by the voters.

Yoram Lass, a Labour official who headed the investigative team, said Peres should resign. Lass resigned as committee chairman last week after giving two newspaper interviews highly critical of Peres hours before the report was completed. "I think everything is clear. The committee touched upon a

long list of failures.... I provided my own small personal example and I think it should be followed by higher-ranking people for the sake of the party," Lass said on Israel army radio.

Peres rejected Lass' suggestion, telling a stormy meeting of the party's ruling central committee.

"I'm not looking for partners to responsibility and accusations but I'm not certain what's the measure of responsibility... the report is certainly serious, we have to draw the lessons but we have to do it close to the start of the next campaign," scheduled for 1992.

Turning to Lass, the angry leader then shouted: "You are not my judge, you have not experienced what I passed through."

Several hundred central committee members frequently interrupted Peres with applause, but some in the crowd shouted at him. Peres led the party in the 1988

campaign in which Labour won 39 seats in the 120-member parliament, far from its goal of more than 40 seats.

Labour's political rivals from the right-wing Likud bloc led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir won 40 seats. The stalemate forced the formation of a Labour-Likud coalition government.

Peres forced the collapse of this coalition in March 1990 over Shamir's failure to accept American proposals for Middle East peace talks. But Peres then failed to form a government, and the task was passed to Shamir.

The report blamed the 1988 failure, in part, on "personality concept" in the campaign and said other possibilities have not been properly investigated.

"The 'personality' concept of the campaign was not checked and decided upon in an organized manner by party institutions. The line which dictated the 'personal-

## Moscow warns migrants

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has told Arab leaders that it is trying to discourage Jewish emigrants to Israel from going to the occupied territories. A message to the Arab summit which opens in Baghdad Monday said Moscow might also give migrants the right to return to the Soviet Union, a move requested by Arabs alarmed at the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

But in spite of a conciliatory tone towards Arab concerns, the message indicated no reversal on the right of Jews to emigrate. It was sent to the Arab League Tuesday and an Arabic text was obtained by Reuters Sunday.

"The Soviet Union sees that the right of emigration should not be at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people," it said. "The Soviet Union has started an awareness activity among (Soviet Jewish) emigrants to warn them against travelling to occupied Arab territories," it said.

The Supreme Soviet was studying a draft law that would allow emigrants to keep their Soviet nationality "so that they could return home if they wanted to," it added.

"The Soviet Union has also taken measures to limit the phenomenon of anti-Semitism which has been used as a pretext to encourage emigration," it said. "The Soviet Union is continuing its efforts to coordinate with the United States, Western Europe and other countries to ensure that the emigrants are free to choose where to reside."

The Arabs see the new wave of Jewish emigration, coupled with Israel's rejection of peace talks, as a threat to peace efforts.

They fear many Soviet Jews will settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials estimate that as many as 750,000 Soviet Jews will go to Israel, but deny there are plans to settle them in the occupied territories and force out the Palestinian inhabitants.

(Continued on page 3)



## Israel-U.S. ties headed for crisis, envoy says

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's ambassador to the United States was quoted Sunday as saying the Jewish state faced a severe crisis in relations with its closest ally unless it advanced Middle East peace efforts.

Yediot Ahronoth, Israel's biggest-selling daily, quoted what it said was a secret cable from Ambassador Moshe Arens to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

"Israel stands before a grave crisis in its relations with the United States which obliges it to re-examine its policies, particularly on contentious issues, chiefly the peace process and settlement," the cable said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he could not comment on internal documents but a government source acknowledged relations were strained.

"The situation is difficult, there's no denying it," he said. Arens' warning was leaked as ministers voiced satisfaction in a cabinet meeting that Israel had apparently blunted a drive by PLO leader Yasser Arafat to have U.N. observers sent to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army lifted curfews from all remaining West Bank towns and part of the Gaza Strip Sunday. But clashes soon erupted in Gaza and troops shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp.

The United States angered Israel last week by saying it was ready to discuss sending a U.N. observer team. But at a U.N. Security Council meeting in Geneva Friday and Saturday it blocked the idea of Security Council involvement.

Ties with Washington, which gives Israel \$3 billion a year, have deteriorated sharply since Shamir refused in March to accept U.S. proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

His Labour coalition partners quit in response, leaving Shamir at the head of a hardline caretaker cabinet.

Relations cooled further after Shamir's government admitted secretly funding a Jewish settlement in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City and supported two new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.S. criticism of Israel's handling of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising in the territories sharpened last week after a crazed Israeli shot dead seven Arab workers. Troops and Jewish settlers have killed 17 more and wounded about 900 in subsequent protests.

Israel continued to reject any U.N. mission to the occupied Arab territories Sunday and dismissed Arafat's speech to the special Geneva session of the Security Council as exploiting the killings for political ends.

"Israel will not agree to a mission of the United Nations which will come by virtue of a Security Council resolution or on behalf of it or to any U.N. delegation which will be connected with the subject of security in the territories," Arens told the cabinet.

Despite the ban on U.N. observers, unofficial watchdogs abounded at the weekend in a show of international concern.

French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Aid Bernard Kouchner was due to meet Shamir after touring the occupied Arab territories and a Soviet delegation led by a former deputy foreign minister began a 10-day visit last Thursday.

Iran's cultural centre was wrecked last Saturday during battles between pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters and Syrian-backed Amal militia. One employee was wounded.

Syrian soldiers were placed on alert after an explosion in Beirut's southern suburbs Sunday. Hizbollah said Amal was responsible. The device caused little damage.

Part of Syria's 40,000-strong force in Lebanon patrolled and manned roadblocks were Hizbollah and Amal fought Friday.

Amal-Hizbollah duels killed six people and wounded 44 in Syrian-controlled West Beirut this week. Amal said the clashes were caused by an Hizbollah attempt to assassinate one of its officials.

It was the second attack on Iranian property in a week.

Iranian embassy in Beirut was badly damaged by mortar and machinegun fire during night battles between rival Muslim Shi'ites in which one person was killed and seven were wounded, security sources said Sunday.

"Some undisciplined militiamen attacked the diplomatic centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran... The command of the Syrian forces was contacted and the attackers' guns were silenced," an Iranian embassy statement said.

It said the Syrians inspected the damage and promised to protect the embassy from further attacks.

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## Kidnappers threaten U.S., Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Kidnappers holding two U.S. hostages have vowed to make the United States and Israel "pay the price" for the killings of seven Palestinian workers in Israel last week by a gunman.

But the Organisation of Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, in a statement issued Saturday, did not directly threaten to harm the two hostages.

In another development, PLO chief Yasser Arafat reportedly said two Swiss Red Cross workers kidnapped in Lebanon seven months ago are alive, and he offered to help mediate their release.

The Arabic-language statement, delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut, came with an instant picture of U.S. hostages Jesse Turner and Alan Steen. They were kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987, from Beirut University College.

The picture showed a smiling, bespectacled Turner wearing a bushy black beard and a striped pullover. Steen wore a dark jumpsuit and a beard, and his hair was slightly disheveled. Both looked straight at the camera.

The picture resembled a photograph the group released on Feb. 23, 1989, showing Turner and Steen along with former American hostage Robert Pollitt.

On April 22, the same group released Pollitt, a New Yorker and a lecturer in accounting who was kidnapped with Steen and Turner.

Turner, 42, of Boise, Idaho, and Steen, 50, a native of Boston, were professors serving with the U.S.-affiliated college when they were abducted by gunmen posing as Lebanese riot police.

Eight days after Pollitt was freed, another pro-Iranian group, the Organisation of Islamic Dawn, released U.S. hostage Frank Herbert Reed, 57, after 3 and 1-2 years in captivity.

Iranian leaders and their Lebanese allies have since complained, the United States has failed to respond with a goodwill gesture of its own.

"America is directly responsible for shedding the blood of our people and their cause," the 18-line statement said Saturday, referring to the shooting deaths of seven Arab labourers in a Tel Aviv suburb on May 20.

Israeli officials have said the accused gunman, a former Israeli soldier, was apparently deranged. The shootings prompted widespread unrest among Arabs in Jordan, Israel and the occupied Arab territories. Arafat also cited the killings when he urged the U.N. Security Council in Geneva Friday to send an international force to protect Palestinians in the occupied lands.

"We warn America and Israel that future developments will not be in the interest of either of them. They will realise that the blood will not be wasted. They will pay the price," the kidnappers' statement said.

"America seeks at all costs to retain its base, Israel, in the east and will not permit even verbal resolutions of an adverse nature against Israel." This was seen as a reference to frequent U.S. vetoes of U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Israeli actions.

Asked about the statement, U.S. State Department spokesman Anita Stockman in Washington said: "I don't really have anything I can comment on in terms of the report except to say that our general policy is to say that the hostages should be freed immediately and unconditionally."

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## Islamic party seizes initiative in Algerian campaign

ALGIERS (R) — Muslim fundamentalists have seized the initiative with fiery religious rhetoric in an otherwise lacklustre campaign for Algeria's first free elections since independence.

Two weeks before local polls likely to end 27 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN), many newly legal political parties are bogged down in financial woes and internal squabbles.

Many ordinary Algerians are skeptical about whether the elections will help them overcome their most pressing problems — lack of jobs and housing and soaring prices.

"Many people still don't believe too much in the political opening up. They are skeptical," said Youssef Ikhlef of the Social Democratic Party (PSD).

So far in Algiers, the capital of 1.7 million people, poster boards set up for the campaign are often blank and there is little sense that history is being made.

But the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which seeks to build an Islamic state, is filling the void.

Bearded, white-robed FIS activists have been striding up banners across streets in Belcourt, Farhat Bou Saad, Hamma, Kouba, Hussein Dey and Bab Al Oued — low-income Algiers neighbourhoods where they are strongest.

"Your vote is a trust, they will ask you about it on the day of judgment" say the banners. "Neither east nor west — Islamic municipalities," says another.

FIS candidate in Hamma, Abdul Hamid Hachit, told a rally Friday God would punish those who did not vote for a "Muslim" — apparently meaning a FIS candidate.

Highly motivated and apparently well funded, FIS supporters have been canvassing door to door and — according to their opponents — tearing down rival posters.

This has alarmed liberal opposition parties like Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), the only one to state openly its belief in a separation of religion

and state. "From the moment one party says it represents God and the others the devil there is a danger of things getting out of hand," the RCD's Arezki Ait Larbi told Reuters.

The RCD, with strong support in the Berber-speaking Kabylie Mountains east of Algiers, has held rallies in Oran in the west and Bejaia, Setif and Bordj Bou Arreridj in the east.

FIS leader Abbasi Madani has been criss-crossing the country from Tlemcen in the west to Mila in the east, but the welcome has not always been warm.

Scores of anti-fundamentalist youth packed a stadium in the Kabylie capital of Tizi Ouzou last Wednesday to boo, and prevent him from speaking, media reports said.

Centrist parties like the PSD, the National Party for Solidarity and Development and the Party of Algerian Renewal are beset by internal disputes and financial problems. They were able to present lists in only a minority of districts.

Independents, who have swamped candidate lists nearly everywhere, complain they have yet to receive promised financial subsidies.

The FLN has so far done relatively little direct campaigning, but opponents say it does not have to.

The FLN controls a large state budget, most of the media and an entrenched position that gives it unrivalled levers of vote-winning patronage.

"This is the first multi-party poll since independence. One can legitimately ask if the FLN is going to play the game or if the whole thing is a trap," said Ait Larbi.

As the campaign started, the FLN government raised public sector salaries, cracked down on the black market and launched a youth job programme. The opposition has accused it of electioneering, a charge denied by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche.

Israel expects 20,000 Soviet immigrants per month

TEL AVIV (AP) — Immigration officials have said Israel expects the number of Soviet immigrants to increase to 20,000 each month starting this summer.

Gad Ben Ari, spokesman for the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency which is responsible for immigration, told the Associated Press the rise in arrivals would result from increasing the number of Jews leaving by existing transit routes.

Ben Ari declined to go into details. Israel officials have refused to discuss exact routes following threats by Arab extremists to block the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Finland agreed earlier this month to allow its soil to be used as a transit point. Most Soviet Jews have been coming via Romania and Hungary since the Soviet Union refused regular direct flights.

The new wave of Soviet immigrants has caused a controversy because of Palestinian fears that many of them will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The immigration also have affected Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, which has refused to renew formal diplomatic contact after the 1967 Middle East war. Washington also has warned

against using U.S. funds to settle Jews on occupied Arab land.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said last week that Arab fears that Palestinians would be forced off their land was a "red herring" since only a few hundred Soviets have moved to Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

However, several thousand have moved into housing complexes in Arab East Jerusalem which was occupied in the 1967 war and annexed by Israel which now considers it part of the Jewish state.

Officials expect about 150,000 Soviet Jews this year. So far, about 40,000 have arrived.

Israel expects 20,000 Soviet immigrants per month

Israel expects 20,000 Soviet immigrants per month

## Iranian embassy damaged in Beirut Amal-Hizbollah battles; one killed

BEIRUT (R) — The Iranian embassy in West Beirut was badly damaged by mortar and machinegun fire during night battles between rival Muslim Shi'ites in which one person was killed and seven were wounded, security sources said Sunday.

"Some undisciplined militiamen attacked the diplomatic centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran... The command of the Syrian forces was contacted and the attackers' guns were silenced," an Iranian embassy statement said.

It said the Syrians inspected the damage and promised to protect the embassy from further attacks.

Iranian embassy in Beirut was badly damaged by mortar and machinegun fire during night battles between rival Muslim Shi'ites in which one person was killed and seven were wounded, security sources said Sunday.

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## Court upholds 18 years jail term for Vanunu

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli supreme court Sunday rejected the appeal of a former nuclear technician whose disclosure to a British newspaper that Israel had the atom bomb severely embarrassed the Jewish state.

The court upheld an 18-year jail term for espionage and treason passed on Mordechai Vanunu by the Jerusalem District Court in 1988. Both the appeal and the original trial were held behind closed doors and shrouded in secrecy.

Vanunu, 35, a former employee at the Dimona nuclear reactor in the Negev Desert, has been in solitary confinement for almost four years since Israel spirited him back from London to face trial.

Early in his trial, Vanunu managed to flash a message to reporters written on the palm of his hand saying he had been lured to Rome and kidnapped there.

Though Israel has never admitted holding nuclear weapons, it is widely assumed to have them. Vanunu's 1986 disclosures to the Sunday Times infuriated Israeli leaders and were used by Arab adversaries to justify their chemical weapons programmes.

Peter Hounam, the journalist who took Vanunu from his home in Australia to Britain for the interview with his newspaper and then provided evidence for the defence, said the verdict was unprecedented and very harsh.

"I'm very sad for Vanunu and for Israeli justice. It must be the first time that someone has been found guilty of treason and espionage for talking to a newspaper," he told Reuters.

Defence Attorney Avigdor Feldman told reporters Vanunu was "bitterly disappointed" by the ruling. The case was heard by three judges and Feldman said he would probably request another hearing before a larger panel of judges within a week.

"We think the case raises extremely complex and important questions... we will consider asking for a hearing on a full bench of the (supreme) court with maybe four, five, seven or nine judges," Feldman told reporters, adding that he was thinking about other means he could not yet specify.

Feldman said that in 30 days the court would hear arguments for publishing the verdict and a part of the court proceedings.

"We will ask for a publication of the judgment and a large part of the proceedings. We think the issues raised in the Vanunu case are far beyond the legal process and should be judged by public opinion," Feldman said.

Vanunu was whisked out of the courthouse and into a police van shortly after the hearing ended and photographers waiting outside hardly caught a glimpse of him.

He worked for nine years as a low-ranking technician at the top-secret Dimona plant before telling the Sunday Times that Israel had produced up to 200 atom bombs at the site.

At the original trial Israeli prosecutor Uzi Hasson called for a life sentence.

Vanunu was convicted of aiding Israel's enemies and passing information with the intention of harming state security.

When Vanunu took the stand at the time, he argued that his disclosures about Israel's nuclear capabilities were not new. His family said he had acted for ideological reasons because he feared the spread of nuclear weapons.

Feldman said that though Vanunu was allowed to see his family once a month, he had not seen them because he refused to meet them behind bars.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### Algeria, Vietnam discuss ties

ALGIERS (R) — The presidents of Vietnam and Algeria, whose countries both waged long wars against French colonialism, met Sunday to discuss boosting ties, the Algerian News Agency (APS) reported. Vo Chi Cong, president of Vietnam's Council of State, had talks with Chadli Benjedid. He arrived Saturday for a week-long visit during which he will tour Algerian oil and industrial projects. Cong noted on arrival both countries were in the throes of deep changes — reform of Socialist economic systems put in place in the 1970s. He said his visit was aimed at creating "new opportunities to enlarge and promote bilateral cooperation."

Boat sinks in Istanbul, one killed

ISTANBUL (AP) — A cruise boat carrying members of handball teams from Iraq, the Soviet Union and Algeria sank Sunday, killing one person and injuring 10, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported. There could be more people trapped in the boat, which sank off Istanbul, Anatolia reported. The boat was carrying 71 passengers and many swam ashore or were picked up by fishing boats in the vicinity. The victims were not immediately identified. Adem Cevik, the boat's captain, told Anatolia the passengers had gathered at one end of the boat despite his warnings not to do so and upset the boat's balance. "The boat suddenly listed and I lost control of the rubber," Cevik said, according to Anatolia.

Israel jailed for defacing Jewish graves

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court Sunday jailed a religious Jew for three years after he confessed to desecrating some 300 Jewish graves in a warped effort to unite Israelis against Arab and anti-Semitic threats. The court in the northern city of Haifa gave David Goldner, a 41-year-old former computer engineer who recently turned religious, the maximum sentence for vandalism and dishonouring the dead. It added a one-year suspended sentence. Goldner admitted to police that he daubed graffiti such as "burn the Jews" on graves in three Haifa cemeteries earlier this month after the desecration of Jewish graves in the southern French town of Carpentras. He said he was trying to arouse awareness of the threats to Israel's existence.

U.K. to deport 2 for anti-Rushdi plot

LONDON (AP) — Two men who were reported to have plotted against Satanic Verses author Salman Rushdie will be deported and four others have been released, authorities said Saturday. A spokesman for Scotland Yard police headquarters said the men were detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. But he would not give the nationalities of the men and would not comment on the reported connection with a plot against Rushdie. Two men were released Friday and two were released Saturday from London's top security Paddington Green Police Station, police said.

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### PROGRAMME ONE



## ERCOUNTRY MEETING FOR EPI NATIONAL MANAGE



Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben (second from left) Sunday attends the seventh annual meeting of managers of EPI. Present are Dr. Husein Al Jazairi WHO-East Mediterranean regional director (left) and Richard Reid (right), UNICEF-Middle East and North Africa regional director.

## Jordan's immunisation programmes reap results

AMMAN (Petra) — Thanks to assistance received over the past years from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Jordan is now almost free of polio and is advancing through immunisation programmes towards providing better health services for children of all ages, Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said Sunday.

## Arab countries agree on industrial cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) signed an agreement here Sunday with the Amman-based general secretariat of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen, to pave the way for co-operating in industrial and mining fields.

## Peres

(Continued from page 1)  
ity style in the campaign was based on the research elements totally controlled by the party chairman," it said.

The report also said that lower-ranking party institutions and leaders were not involved enough in the campaign while "professional institutions were too much involved in the political side" of it.

It said the Decima Public Opinion Institute hired by Labour was too optimistic in its forecasts and that the owner of Gitan company, Peres' image adviser who is a Labour member, "had an exaggerated influence on the campaign."

In a separate statement accompanying the report, two members of the investigative team blamed Peres for conducting the campaign "in an almost presidential style."

"It is difficult to cancel a possibility that this strategy was adopted to improve positions within the party," army radio quoted their statement as saying.

Peres' party rival, former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, made an emotional speech, saying he felt preferring "family peace to an argument" was a mistake.

"The 1988 campaign was built on one assumption: That party head is an electoral asset and the party is a burden," he charged.

"We need decisions leading to real democratisation in the party. Let the members choose their leaders."

Peres said he was ready to face the challenge.

## Algiers symposium tackles water problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a three-day symposium organised in Algiers by the European Community (EC) to discuss proper means to rationalise the use of water resources for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf left for the Algerian capital Sunday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the meeting which is being attended by countries with in the Mediterranean basin.

The meeting, which is due to open Monday, will deal with means of protecting water resources from excessive use by improving the level of water resources management and the efficiency of technicians employed in water-related affairs.

According to Khalaf, specialists in water affairs from different countries of the world are taking part in the symposium.

Earlier this month, Khalaf warned that Jordan's estimated use of water for domestic purposes alone could reach 260 million cubic metres annually by the year 2005, up from 180 million at present.

In view of the scarce resources of water in Jordan, due largely to the poor rainfall this year, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has started a water distribution programme since the beginning of May. The ministry expects excessive consumption of water during the summer in view of the presence of a large number of expatriates visiting the country.

Meanwhile, a report in Al-Dustour Arabic daily on Sunday said that the ministry had decided to stop water pumping to Amman from the Deir Alla region in the Jordan Valley to save water for irrigation purposes in the valley.

The report quoted Ministry of Water and Irrigation secretary-general as saying that the measure will be implemented only during the summer.

"There is a shortage of water supply in the Jordan Valley and the decision was taken to stop pumping water from Deir Alla to Amman as a result of coordination between the ministry and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA)," according to JVA Secretary-General Mohammad Bani Hani.

Shortly before the decision to stop water supplies to Amman, which took effect Friday, Bani Hani said water was pumped for eight hours daily during the night, and at the rate of 10,000 cubic metres, down from 124,000 cubic metres when the pumping first started in January.

## Young virtuoso to hold concert

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute will present Jordanian pianist Rula Nabil in a concert on Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

At the concert, held under the patronage of West German Ambassador Herwig Bartels, Nabil will be playing works by Beethoven and Mozart.

Rula Cameron Nabil, born in Amman in 1966, started her music lessons at the age of seven under well-known piano tutor Huda Sha'aban and continued until she passed the Grade 8 Performance Examination of the Association of Music in the United Kingdom.

In 1983, she was awarded Her Majesty Queen Noor's Music Scholarship and her further education was arranged in Germany by the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education and the "Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst" (DAAD).

Her first task in Germany was to undertake an intensive language course at the Goethe Institute and to prepare simultaneously for a highly competitive entrance examination. Having achieved both these prerequisites, she started formal music education at the "State Music Academy of Heidelberg and Mannheim" for her piano work she had the expertise and guidance of Professor Hans Helmut Schwarz.

After six years, Rula obtained her ML degree in music education majoring in piano performance. During this period she had extensive stage experience, both as a soloist and with various ensembles in numerous European cities. Since her return to Amman, around two years ago, she gave some performances here too.

**Tourism on the rise in Jordan**

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabari Sunday voiced deep appreciation of the efforts of the private tourism and travel offices in the Kingdom for helping to make the past tourist season a great success.

Speaking at Aqaba, following the departure of the last aircraft carrying Finnish tourists home at the end of winter season, Kabari said Jordan hopes that the coming season would be a greater success in view of the wide-scale marketing programmes being carried out by the public and private sectors in Finland.

He said that the tourist season in Aqaba normally begins in September and ends in May each year. He also said that in the 1989-1990 winter season Jordan had 87,659 tourist nights, compared with 63,526 in the previous 1988-1989 season.

According to George Bawab managing director of a local company organising the Finnish tourist visits to Aqaba, the number of Finnish visitors started to increase following His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Finland and the introduction of improved facilities in the port city.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday meets with a U.N. fact-finding mission (Petra photo)

## Regent briefs fact finding mission on situation in the occupied Arab lands

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday briefed a U.N. fact finding mission, currently on a visit to Jordan on the situation in the occupied Arab territories, in light of the recent developments.

At a special audience, the Regent said that the long-standing unresolved issues, including the Palestinian question, the Lebanese problem and the Gulf problem have remained unresolved and said that prospects for establishing genuine peace are becoming gloomier by the day.

Prince Hassan said that Israel had recently diverted attention from the main issue of ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people by encouraging and welcoming the new waves of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine.

The Crown Prince pointed out to the Israeli religious and political extremism and called on the international community and the United Nations to find immediate solutions to the problems of the region.

Earlier Sunday, the Foreign Minister Sunday handed to the fact-finding mission a statistical report outlining Israel's illegal measures in the occupied Arab territories and its inhuman practices against the indigenous population.

The report was presented by the Director of the ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Dr. Ahmad Qatanani who discussed the situation in the Israeli-held territories.

Qatanani said that 52 per cent of the total area of the West Bank which was occupied in 1967 was seized by the Israeli occupation

authorities and many of the lands were used for setting up Jewish settlements which now number 2,000.

Qatanani spoke about Israel's immigration policies and said that the immigrants are being settled on occupied Arab lands, a move which endangers the peace process.

Qatanani also outlined the Jordanian government's assistance to the people of the occupied Arab lands.

The fact-finding mission was set up by the United Nations Arab territories. To carry out its task the mission members have been visiting the Arab area on an annual basis, hearing reports about the situation in Palestine and interviewing witnesses who give testimony to Israel's illegal practices and violations.

## Germany to grant Jordan loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A DM 20 million loan will be granted to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) by the West German government in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Sunday.

The loan will be offered by the IDB to various industrial businesses to improve production and to increase exports of national products, according to a statement following the signing ceremony at the Ministry of Planning.

According to the agreement the IDB is still to sign a deal with the German Development Bank to determine the way in which the loan will be spent.

## Badran congratulates Yemeni prime minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Moudar Badran sent a cable Sunday to his Yemeni counterpart Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas congratulating him on his appointment as the first prime minister of the united Republic of Yemen.

"Let us hope that the Yemeni unity will mark the beginning of the fulfilment of the pan-Arab unity dream," said Badran in his cable to Attas. The prime minister wished his counterpart success in his mission and in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the Yemeni people. He said that Jordan finds in pan-Arab unity the only hope for the Arab countries to confront the looming Zionist danger. "Pan-Arab unity is

sought by Jordan because it is the dream of the Arab masses which we hope will be fulfilled," said Badran.

North and South Yemen merged last Tuesday after 300 years of separation to form a new republic, dominating the strategic entrance to the Red Sea. North Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh proclaimed unification in Aden after parliament in both states elected him president of a country of 13 million people.

His Majesty King Hussein last week cabled his congratulations to the president of the united republic, wishing him success in leading the Yemeni people to further progress and prosperity.

## 33 held after Ramtha border clash freed on bail; trial begins June 4

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The trial of 35 people involved in a May 13 clash with border security forces is set to begin June 4 at a court in the northern town of Ramtha, where they are expected to be charged with four different counts of security crimes under the penal code, defence lawyers said Sunday.

Thirty-three of the defendants were released from Qafqafa prison on bail Saturday, another is undergoing treatment for bullet wounds sustained during the clash and another is at large, said lawyer Asme Khader, who is among a group of 10 defence attorneys in the case.

All the defendants will be charged on four counts — illegal gathering, assault on security forces, preventing security forces from carrying out their duties, and vandalism — according to court documents. The maximum sentence in any of the four charges is three years imprisonment and/or fines.

Khader, a human rights activist who is known for defending cases involving political/security issues, said an earlier court ruling had found that the case should be tried under martial law, but an appeals court overturned the ruling and decided that the defend-

dants should face trial by a criminal court under the regular penal code of the Kingdom since martial law provisions are no longer applicable after the government suspended them earlier this year.

According to security sources, the defendants were among a group of about 300 people who clashed with security forces at the Ramtha border post on the night of May 13 after being stopped from crossing over to Syria without proper documents. The group was carrying the body of a convict who had died of leukaemia a day before while serving a sentence for possession of weapons and assaulting police officers.

The deceased, Mu'tazz Subhi Hamdan, belonged to Fateh Uprising, a dissident wing of Fateh, the largest commando group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Fateh Uprising, led by Saeed Musa (Abu Musa), is believed to have been behind the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fakh Qawasmeh in the Jabal Hussein area of Amman in December 1984. Nayef Al Bayed, said to have been a member of the group, was tried and found guilty and was executed for the assassination in 1986, informed sources said.

Hamdan was arrested along

with several others after a battle with security forces in the Wihdat refugee camp outside Amman on Sept. 11, 1985. No direct link was established between Hamdan and the Qawasmeh murder, but a guerrilla cell and arms cache that security forces uncovered in the camp indicated that Bayed had been one of the group, according to informed sources.

It is not clear yet how many of the people involved in the May 13 clash at Ramtha actually belong to the Abu Musa group. Some sources said several of them were friends and relatives of the deceased prisoner, whose parents live in Syria, and not necessarily members of the Palestinian rebel movement, which set up base in Damascus after challenging the leadership of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO and one of the founders of Fateh, and forcing him out of north Lebanon in 1983.

Security sources said last week that one member of the Abu Musa group was killed and another was wounded when they walked across a minefield after infiltrating into the Kingdom from Syria. According to the sources, the incident occurred Monday and the two guerrillas, who were carrying four assault rifles and two rocket launchers, were heading for Beqaa camp out-

side Amman where protests against Sunday's massacre of eight Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv led to violent clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

Lawyer Khader told the Jordan Times Sunday that the key line of defence at the Ramtha trial would be a refusal of the charges that the defendants started the clashes at the border post. "We will be arguing that the security forces provoked the violence," she said. Immediate reports after the clash said at least one from among the crowd opened fire on security forces during the violence.

One of the defendants, 22-year-old Khaled Abdul Rahman Mohammad Hamdan, is undergoing treatment under police custody at King Hussein Medical Centre for a bullet injury in the thigh sustained during the clash. Khader said bail would be sought for the wounded depending upon his health condition. Khaled Abu Hudeid, another defendant, remains at large and is expected to be tried in absentia if he is not apprehended before the court begins hearings on June 4.

Among the group of defence lawyers in the case are Zaki Zoubi, Ibrahim Al Hindi, Mohammad Bababseh and Adil Midanat.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

## EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by

- Randa Berooni at Goethe Institute.
- ★ Exhibition displaying traditional Syrian handicraft by Syrian women, and hand-printed textile by Mustafa Fathi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Armenian art exhibition at

- the Royal Cultural Centre.
- FILMS**
- ★ Dutch films on art at AEA Art Gallery — 6:30 p.m.
- ★ French film entitled "Baton rouge" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

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## Putting the Arab house in order

THE FAILURE or success of the emergency Arab summit that convenes in Baghdad today will certainly shape the future of the Arab Nation for decades to come. Nowhere in its history has the Arab Order faced so many grave and intense problems; conflicts are many: war, sectarian strife, fundamentalism, economic hardships, a changing world and what not. These and many others are the major preoccupation of almost every Arab country; not even the affluent are spared. The problems are indeed ominous and the task that faces the Arab leaders gathered in Baghdad is formidable.

If maxims are anything to go by, and if charity begins at home, then the first priority of work that awaits the Baghdad summit is putting the Arab house in order. They have to face the threats from within before bracing themselves from a position of strength to confront the external threats and challenges, whether from Israel, Iran, Ethiopia, the U.S., the West or a united Europe. And the greatest threat from within is the cry for war, a calamitous solution for all the failures and catastrophes that befall the Arabs over the decades. But Arab leaders, thank God, realise that wars leave behind only destruction and misery.

That the enemies of the Arab Nation are conspiring against us should not come as a surprise. If anything, it should be the propelling force behind us to conspire against them. But, the problem is when Arabs conspire against Arabs and fight each other. The Arab masses are sick and tired of the continued inter-Arab bickerings and infights which serve no-one but the enemy and sap our own energies and resources. The people of the Arab World at large are indeed restless of the failure of their leaders to even solve its bread and butter issues, not to mention water, social, security and political problems. If world powers, whom many Arab states appear bent upon emulating in various other fields, are opting for reconciliation and compromise with a view to diverting attention to addressing their people's problems, isn't it time the Arabs followed suit?

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday discussed the situation in the occupied Arab lands in the light of a debate held by the United Nations Security Council, and wondered whether the Soviet Union which had allowed the aggravation of the situation in the region to continue, can now allow things to deteriorate further. The Soviet Union should stop the emigration of Soviet Jews who are now destined to settle on Arab lands, simply because this settlement is being done at the expense of the Arab people of Palestine and their homeland, said the paper. The Soviet Union ought to stop this emigration until Israel accepts U.N.-sponsored arrangements for providing protection to the Palestinians prior to finding a just and lasting settlement to their problems, the paper stressed. It said the Israeli prime minister has already rejected PLO leader Yasser Arafat's call for observer teams to be sent to Palestine as part of a package arrangement to ensure the protection of the civilian population. This rejection is a clear indication that Israel refuses United Nations Security Council resolutions and is bent to pursue criminal policies against the Palestinian people, the paper noted. The paper said that it now remains to be seen whether Moscow will allow the current situation to continue and so give Israel a free hand in dealing with the lives of the civilian population in Palestine.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily on Sunday reminds the Arab leaders who are meeting in Baghdad Monday of the failure of the past summits to put an end to Israel's arrogance and ambitious dreams in the Arab World. Abdul Rahman Omar recalls the failure of the various Arab armies sent in to fight the Israelis in the 1948 war, and how they failed to prevent the occupation of most of Palestine. The writer notes that the 1948 tragedy occurred soon after an Arab summit was held in Bludan in Syria, and that other setbacks took place at the hand of Israel following other summits by the Arab heads of state. The writer also reminds the Arab leaders of Israel's seizure of water resources and its absorption of hundreds of thousands of Jews to settle in Palestine, while the Arab World failed to stop this great catastrophe. Omar notes, however, that the summit, to convene in Baghdad Monday, takes place under completely different circumstances and as the Arabs, specially Iraq, are far more stronger militarily than ever before, and as the Arab leaders meeting in the Iraqi capital are more determined this time to thwart Israel's plans. It is up to the Arab leaders now, says the writer, to find proper measures to put an end to Israel's atrocities against the Palestinians and to thwart its ambitious designs in the Arab World.

Al Dustour commented Sunday on Washington's underhand dealings with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestine question in particular. Washington has retracted a statement in which it displayed willingness to send United Nations observer teams to Palestine to monitor Israel's human rights violations and other atrocities, said the paper. Retraction of statements could not be the end of the road for the United States which could be expected to take a step designed to give Israel a free hand in dealing with the Palestinian people and to prevent any United Nations moves that could stop Israel from committing atrocities, the paper noted. It is clear that as Washington is trying to escape pressure from the Zionist lobby in Congress it finds itself bogged down in confused foreign policy, costing America its credibility world-wide, the paper noted. It said that as Washington is being pushed into a situation where it is openly encouraging aggression, it is leaving the Arabs with no alternative but to totally rule out any peaceful solution.

## Time is running out for Mideast peace

By HRH Prince Hassan

The following article by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince appeared in the New York Times Saturday, May 26, 1990.

AMMAN — The killings of innocent Palestinians by Israelis in the occupied territories, and the subsequent popular uproar and agitation, underscore the need for the Arabs and Israelis urgently to fashion their own special glass — an accommodation that would seriously tackle the festering issues that have hampered the Middle East for generations.

Failure to arrive at this accommodation will surely escalate violence and terrorism, leading to yet another unaffordable war. Neither side will emerge a victor, because in fighting each other, Arabs and Israelis would be fighting the wrong enemy.

The real enemy is an expanding international fundamentalist movement; Jewish extremists constitute one element of this movement; the recent storming of the St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem, two days before Good Friday and Easter, was a manifestation of their bigotry.

Another element of the expanding fundamentalist movement is an Islamic cohort, that is influential in the politics of Muslim societies from Southeast Asia westward through Afghanistan to Lebanon and North Africa.

Islamic extremists are likely to become active in the intifada. The consequences will not be pleasant for Israel, nor for Jordan.

Jordan is committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We cannot afford to wait until the Arabs and Israelis make suitable

compromises that would bring them to the negotiating table. They must be induced to talk to one another — now. It will not do any longer for the U.N. Security Council to merely consider, and perhaps approve, resolutions condemning Israeli's hostile actions against Palestinians. It is encouraging that the Security

The real enemy is an expanding international fundamentalist movement. Jewish extremists constitute one element of this movement; the recent storming of the St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem, two days before Good Friday and Easter, was a manifestation of their bigotry.

Council has just met in Geneva in response to a call by the Palestine Liberation Organisation following the massacres of Palestinians. The Council, however, must convene an international peace conference to activate a new dialogue on peace in the Middle East.

Unless peace prevails, there will be a different kind of war to contend with — a war that knows no territorial or national boundaries. It will be a war not between nation-states but one waged against the nation-state. It will be a war of attrition that seeks to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the current state system. The aim of this war would

be to reduce national entities to their sectarian components.

The only triumphant residue or such a war would be political-religious fundamentalism — Islamic, Christian and Jewish. The Gulf, Palestine, Lebanon — all these places are only the flashpoints. The fanatical war, if unchecked, could extend from Cairo to Islamabad and beyond. We would then witness the ethnic and cultural Lebanonisation or our region.

Make no mistake about it; the "domino theory", so widely cited in the 1960's by those who advocated U.S. intervention to contain Communism in Southeast Asia, is alive and kicking in the Middle East.

In this respect, Jordan's goal has been to check Iran's quest for hegemony over the region and its vital resources, such as oil, and to contain the rising tide of religious fanaticism.

Jordan believes, as do other moderate Arab states, that an international resolution of the Mideast conflict can be best debated and defined under U.N. sponsorship. The Arab summit meeting in Baghdad will, Amman hopes, provide a fresh consensus about the need to renew the peace process.

The Arabs' ability to act during and after that meeting is as critical to the process as is Arab unity.

The exchange of land for peace can be the only acceptable basis for a just and lasting settlement. Such an exchange is embodied in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a withdrawal by foreign forces from the occupied territories and which also implicitly recognise the existence of Israel as a sovereign state.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union must assume greater responsibility in expediting the peace process. Proposals must be designed to accommodate the political requirements of

the Palestinians and the resettlement of Soviet Jews.

Israel can no longer deny the existence of the principal aggrieved party in the dispute, the Palestinian people. Successive Israeli prime ministers have tried to deal with the Palestinian question through third parties.

For several years, Israel toyed with the "Jordanian option", and currently it appears to have appointed Egypt as surrogate. But it is neither Jordan's nor Egypt's responsibility to participate in this subterfuge. Nor should they, since it would signify their acquiescence to the denial of the Palestinians' fundamental right to national self-determination.

Since the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories violate international law, the U.S. and Europe should predicate their subsidisation of the immigration and resettlement of Soviet Jews on Israel's freeing all settlement activity in the occupied territories. They can do much to ameliorate this difficult situation by increasing annual quotas for Soviet Jews to settle in their own countries.

Israel must be more forthright about implementing fair elections in the occupied territories. The Israeli government has centered its objection on the emotional question of Palestinian representation. Israel's denying the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people continues to be an impediment to progress. No doubt Israel's purpose is to drive a wedge between the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their acknowledged and recognised leaders in the PLO.

We hold out both a challenge and an olive branch to the Israelis. Will they seize the opportunity for a lasting peace for a region that has suffered so much?

## Weekly Political Pulse

## Taiwan: Industrial giant seeking unity with Mainland

By Waleed Sadi

TAIPEI has come to age this year with renewed confidence and conviction to wage unity talks with Peking. Two forces have contributed to this fresh start from Taiwan: One is the underlying belief that it is not realistic to avoid unity with Mainland China under one formula or another and, therefore, the sooner contacts between the two sides begin the better the two can get prepared for their inevitable destiny. The second force is Taiwan's economic strength which is only second to Japan when measured in accumulated foreign reserves and that country's future prospects. This newly acquired economic and fiscal muscle has enabled Taipei to pursue a resolute "foreign policy" that is more associated with economic goals than with purely political considerations. In this vein, Taipei is riding high on the new ground rules for diplomacy in the international arena where the language of hard currencies is getting louder and more relevant than traditional political rivalries based on ideology. With a foreign reserve topping \$79 billion, Taipei now talks and acts as a mighty economic power that many poorer countries would covet strengthening their relationship with her.

The phasing out of martial law regime in Taiwan, as has been confirmed on the occasion of taking the oath of office by President Lee Teng-Hui on May 20, is also another vivid sign that Taiwan feels more confident than ever politically as well economically. This bold action also signalled the end of the era of open confrontation with Peking as a relic of past times and circumstances. President Teng-Hui words on the occasion of his inauguration for a six-year term echoed this new spirit that is projected to dominate the future Taipei-Peking relations.

To give further expression to this new line of thinking towards Mainland China, President Teng-Hui also announced the end of his country's 40-year-old policy based on the three no's: no official contact, no negotiations and no compromise. As a matter of fact economic and political contacts between the two sides have been maturing over the past few years and found expression in the visit to China by several Taiwanese parliamentary delegations and the funding of several economic ventures there by indirect investment from Taiwan. Also many Taiwanese with mainland roots have made repeated visits to their ancestral homeland. A smaller number of Mainlanders have made similar trips to visit their relatives in Taiwan.

Meanwhile, the inauguration of the new president was marked by

some demonstrations prompted by the selection of an army general to the post of prime minister. Some Taiwanese saw in the selection of a military figure to the post of prime minister as contradictory to the new democratisation process that has been ushered in lately. On the other hand the election of President Teng-Hui, a Taiwanese, has appeased the natives of Taiwan who have been making constant calls for a greater role for their countrymen in the running of their own homeland. Although the Taiwanese are also Chinese people with roots that take them back to Mainland China, they have acquired, over the years, certain sensitivities about being ruled by the nationalist who fled the Mainland in the wake of the struggle between the nationalists and the Communists.

What is most remarkable about Taiwan to any non-visitor like myself who just concluded a one-week visit there is the dramatic show of economic and industrial prowess of the country. By all accounts, Taiwan is an advanced economic, financial and industrial power — if not a political power. With a per capita income well beyond the \$7,000 mark and a GNP hovering around \$140 billion, the future of the country looks bright and a promising one. Reflecting this newly-found strength, Taipei has initiated all sorts of technical assistance programmes to several underdeveloped countries in Latin America and Africa. The budget of this technical assistance programme is in the hundreds of millions of dollars and is projected to grow further in an effort to capitalise on the country's economic power to penetrate countries that have so far stayed aloof from it for political reasons. Taiwan knows that there is no way for it to compete politically, no to mention militarily, with Peking, thus its choice of economic strength to wage its competition with Mainland China.

In way one emerges from a brief sojourn to Taiwan more convinced than ever that the two sides, China and Taiwan, will end their competition and confrontation somehow and sometime. The big question is when such complete reconciliation between them can be expected to come about. With changes taking place so swiftly all over the world, there is a deep-rooted faith in Taiwan that these changes will sweep the two sides together within a decade or so. With per capita in China still around \$300, there will come a time when it may seek a helping hand from Taiwan, thus accelerating their rapprochement.

## Africa day:

## Challenge of development, reforms

The following is the text of the message of Egyptian President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity on the occasion of the celebration of Africa Day, May 26.

TODAY we celebrate Africa Day. Twenty seven years ago, on this very day, the free will of Africa had converged on establishing the OAU. The OAU stood and still stands as a great edifice for the aspirations of African peoples for freedom, unity, solidarity and progress. Africans, regardless of their varied social and political systems supported their continental organisation in order to eradicate the long and notorious era of colonialism and lay the bases of constructive and joint action among all the countries of Africa. Today the OAU is a reality, a driving force in present African life and in the world at large.

Today is indeed a moment of reflection on the long and glorious march Africa has taken over the years, the struggles and achievements and the remaining problems of economic and social developments as well as the issues of human rights and democracy.

Namibia's independence of the 21st of March 1990 is indeed a great achievement and symbol of freedom, dignity and national sovereignty for all Africa. Now with the independence of Namibia, we trust that endeavours should be pursued to bring about, without

delay, and end to the policies of racial discrimination and apartheid in South Africa. Africa shall never rest, and struggle shall continue until the system of apartheid and the policy of racial discrimination are dismantled.

The challenge that besets Africa today is the realisation of sustained development as well as social and economic reforms. This stands as our first and foremost target. For the realisation of that target, every effort should be made to achieve African economic integration by the year 2000 in implementation of the Lagos plan action. We should also work harder to increase economic cooperation among African countries.

It must be underlined, however, that the problems facing Africa have far reaching effects that not only affect the dignity of the continent and its legitimate rights but also have adverse effects on world peace and stability. The destructive consequences of these problems are bound to extend beyond the African continent to encompass the whole world.

The time has come, to alert world public opinion to the plight of Africa. Time has come for a genuine and meaningful dialogue and cooperation between North and South. Debtor and creditor countries should take further steps to find concrete ways and means to improve the economic situation of African countries and to ease their critical financial problems. Detente

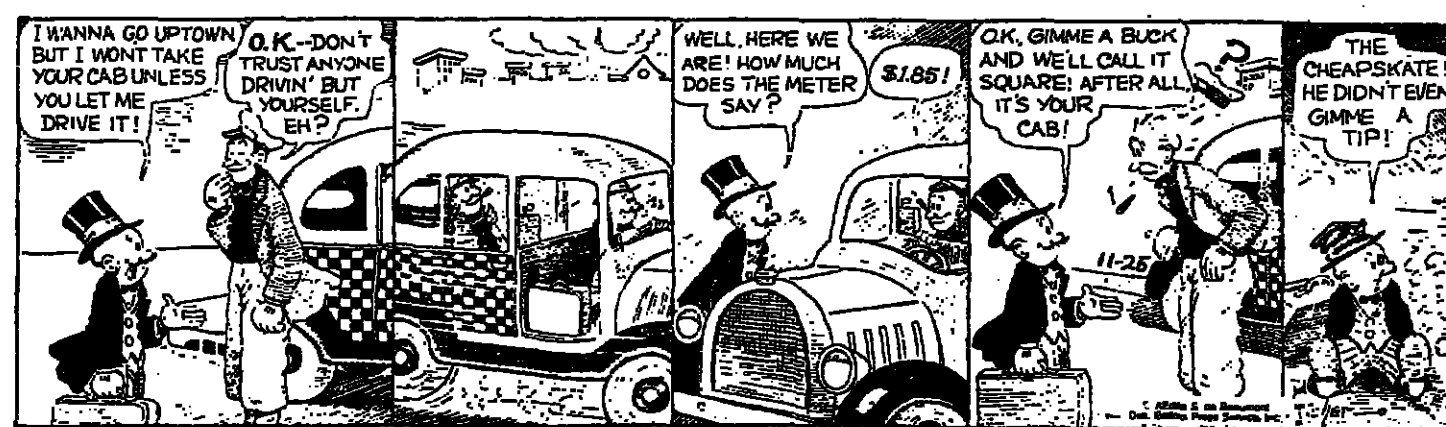
and rapprochement between East and West are indeed a welcome development. They should, however, be complemented by an economic detente, leading to closer relations and cooperation between North and South.

Concerted and persistent action by the African countries is indeed very much required at the present stage in order to maintain and shape the fate of Africa: Africa free from backwardness and exploitation, Africa spared from military confrontation and internal disputes, Africa capable of investing all its inherent potentialities and resources for a better life of its people, Africa occupying the high place it rightly deserves in the world.



Hosni Mubarak

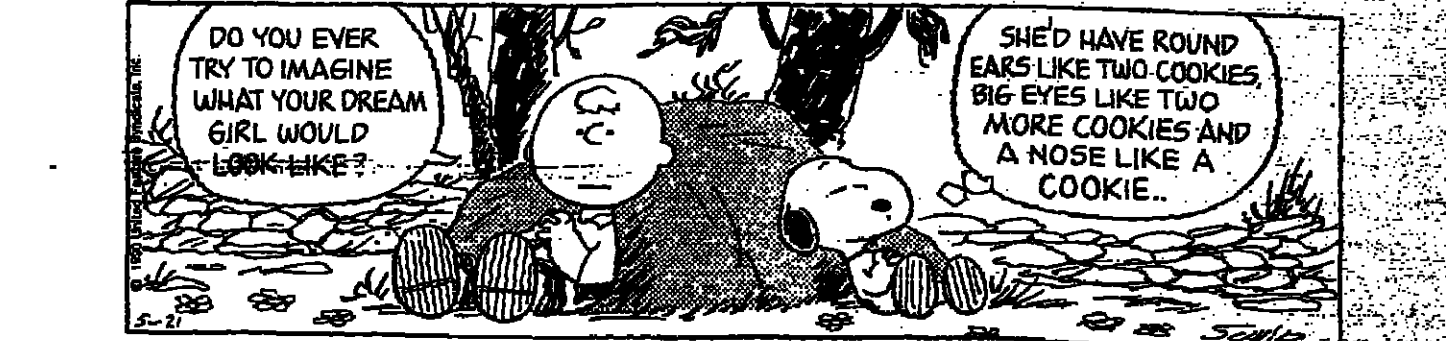
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## LETTER

### I do not understand

To the Editor:

I WONDERED on reading the article Nelly Lama wrote on my exhibition, how I could have said something, I myself do not understand. What does "experimentation should be done on an aesthetic basis and attempts to reach a healthy combination of both essentials" mean? As for my teachers, I feel grateful and indebted to them for all the attention, guidance and encouragement they gave me. It was only the whole academic system that I had shunned.

I wish critics would try less hard at being complex, and write instead in a language that the ordinary reader can comprehend. Ever since I read the article, I have been looking at my poor "Vase with Leaves," with both puzzlement and bewilderment. I had only enjoyed painting what I saw, I was never aware of either solving, or creating problems.

Last, I would like to point a possibly trivial detail, but the Matisse mentioned in my painting, is just a modest line-print of mine.

Randa Berouti  
Amman



## Albania set to rejoin world

SO ALBANIA has not proved immune to the "wind of change" which has swept through and transformed Eastern Europe over the past year. Even this last surviving Stalinist regime in the region has now promised a package of reforms which, if fully implemented, will soften its repressive and reclusive image.

Since coming under Communist control in 1946, the 3.3 million citizens of this small Balkan country have been virtually cut off from the outside world, especially under the dictator, Enver Hoxha, who ruled until 1985.

The reforms were announced shortly before the arrival of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for the first such visit to Tirana. It was the strongest sign yet that the Albanian regime wished to end its isolation.

Before leaving, the secretary-general said the Albanian leadership had assured him that it would not retreat from its reform process. His hosts had also shown "great flexibility" on all questions of human rights.

Under the reform programme ordinary Albanians will be allowed passports to travel abroad for the first time in more than four decades. However, it will be difficult to exercise this right, given the level of poverty and the shortage of foreign currency.

Other changes include the restoration of Ministry of Justice — abolished in 1965 — and the softening of the penal code, reducing the number of capital



Albania, Eastern Europe's last bastion of hardline Communist rule, is showing strong signs of wanting to end its long, self-imposed isolation. This was underlined by the first-ever visit of a

United Nations' secretary-general to Tirana. Here, Javier Perez de Cuellar is seen (left) with Albanian leader Ramiz Alia (Lion photo)

crimes from 34 to 11. Moreover, spreading "religious propaganda" will no longer be a crime against the State. And the right of an accused to a defence lawyer is to be restored.

Among other indications that Tirana wishes to reopen its windows to the world was the statement by the prime minister, Adil Carcani, that his country wants to take part in the work of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. True to its character up to now, the Albanian regime has refused to join in the so-called Helsinki process.

Hoxha's successor, Ramiz Alia, had earlier said that his country wished to restore diplomatic relations with both the United States and the Soviet Union. The former has been revived as "imperialist," while links with

"revisionist" Moscow were severed as far back as 1961.

Although a perpetual odd man out for most of the time, the Albanian regime is the sole survivor of the type of dictatorship foisted on Eastern Europe by Stalin after the World War II.

But the edifice that was the Soviet bloc has crumbled dramatically over the past year in a wave of popular revolutions throughout the region. The fate of the bloc's main structures reflect this rapid disintegration.

COMECON, the Moscow-led economic grouping, has virtually stopped functioning, while its military counterpart, the Warsaw Pact, is breaking up amid considerable rancour between the USSR and the former satellites.

Vyacheslav Sychev, COMECON's secretary, has admitted that the ten-member organisation

has no future in its present form as it had become ossified, inflexible, out of touch with economic reality — and increasingly irrelevant to world trade.

He told a conference at Ghent, Belgium, that COMECON's share of global trade last year was only nine per cent, and that in high technology "infinitesimal."

Meanwhile, reports from at least two European capitals suggest that relations have become strained due to disputes over the financial arrangements relating to the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The differences are over the prices being paid for buildings and other facilities being vacated by the Russians.

In some instances the departing troops are said to have smashed up their bases, blown up ammunition and sold weapons to local civilians — (Lion Features.)

## Refugee agency is broke, millions could suffer dire consequences

By Claude Regis  
Reuters

GENEVA — The Nobel Prize-winning U.N. agency catering for 15 million refugees around the world is broke.

The office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which depends on voluntary contributions from governments, says its financial situation is so desperate that it could "result in unacceptable suffering and could even take its toll in terms of human lives."

The UNHCR needs \$80 million to make ends meet this year and examples abound of the day-to-day problems it faces while trying to provide food and shelter to refugees in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Staff say the agency cannot afford to buy food or blankets for 800,000 Mozambicans who have fled civil strife into neighbouring Malawi.

"In Ethiopia, where a new famine is looming, we are unable to set up buffer stocks of food, while in some refugee camps in Sudan and Malawi, malnutrition has already gone up by 30 per cent," said UNHCR spokesman Raymond Hall.

"The long-term prospects are frightening," he added. On the Indonesian island of Galang, a camp currently housing 12,000 Vietnamese boat people was built for 2,000.

"This means that the extra 10,000 have to sleep on the beach and we can't even buy plastic sheeting for them," said Sergio Vieira de Mello, head of the agency's Asia and Oceania division.

"More refugees, less resources," was how High Commissioner Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway summed up the situation he found on taking over from Jean-Pierre Hocke in January.

Hocke resigned in November. He had been blamed for rising costs and low staff morale.

The 52-year-old Swiss national ran the UNHCR for nearly five years and during his tenure the agency went beyond mere emergency assistance, branching out into education, self-help and social services programmes which have sent costs soaring.

But UNHCR officials also point out that the agency, which was set up in 1951 to deal with one million displaced people in Europe, now caters for 15 million on five continents.

The number of staff has risen to 2,400 from 60 in the mid-1950s when the UNHCR won its first Nobel Peace Prize for taking care of post-war refugees.

It won the Nobel Prize again in 1981 after coping successfully with a doubling of the world refugee population in a decade, the result of an exodus of Vietnamese after the Communist takeover, the war in Afghanistan and civil strife in the Horn of Africa.

Vieira de Mello feels the U.N. body should return to its original mandate and hand over some of its activities to other specialised agencies and non-governmental organisations.

"There is a great need for rationalisation, for going back to basics," he said.

This is precisely what the UNHCR's 43-nation executive committee, which groups major donors such as the United States, the European Community and Japan, recommended at a meeting last October.

"Donor countries want the UNHCR to limit the scope of its operations to the survival of refugees — food, water and housing — and leave education and self-help programmes to other specialised bodies," said Hall.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 28 in Geneva. Delegates are expected to review the agency's financial situation and approve a 13 per cent cut in staff at the Geneva headquarters and a seven per cent reduction of field operators.

But escalating costs alone do not explain the UNHCR's dramatic financial difficulties.

Governments and public opinion are increasingly wary of an ever-swelling and seemingly endless refugee tide and are turning their attention to other issues.

"Compassion fatigue has set in and there is a limit to what donor countries are willing or able to do," said Vieira de Mello.

Hall pointed out that the number of refugees worldwide doubled over the last decade while the agency's resources increased by only 25 per cent. "Contributions have simply not kept pace with our requirements," he added.

Relief officials say humanitarian causes face increasing competition from issues such as the need to rebuild Eastern Europe after the collapse of Communist rule, pressing environmental problems and the war against drugs.

## Adventure booming from Himalayas to Amazon but environmentalists worried

By William R. Cormier  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A burgeoning travel industry that takes tourists to remote regions including Antarctica, the Himalayas and the Galapagos is drawing fire for leaving man's footprint on some of Earth's most fragile frontiers.

Adventure travel amounts to an estimated \$1.3 billion, or 10 per cent, of the U.S. travel market. And no one seems to know just how big the market will grow.

But one thing is certain: Adventure travel is sparking debate over whether it recruits ambassadors for the Earth, or poses an ecological risk because of the intrusion on little-spoiled regions and civilisations.

"There's clearly a trend toward these types of expeditionary visit to remote places in the world," said Bruce Mannheim, an environmentalist seeking tourist controls in Antarctica, one of the favoured destinations.

Travel agents and tour operators are selling the trips to the affluent and well-travelled with this message: "Go now before environmental destruction of Earth's final frontiers is complete."

"If you don't go now you are going to miss it," said New York travel agent Chip Snyder, who arranges individualised tours to exotic locales.

"If you've never been to Africa, go because they're thinking of fencing in the game preserves. I've never been to Madagascar but I'm going to make it before it's gone, because they're chopping down the trees," he explained.

Environmentalists say it is the tourists themselves who are often making these incursions and that tight controls should be set in place.

But James Barnes, an activist with Friends of the Earth, a

to a lot of environmental groups," he added.

Take the example of the Galapagos, a fragile volcanic chain of islands perched on the Equator in the Pacific, 1,000 kilometres west of South America.

The desolate archipelago is invaded each year by thousands of tourists, and their numbers are growing. Scientists complained last year that some were not heeding the rules of conservation.

"If they don't slow the pace of indiscriminate tourism, there will

iceberg," said Mannheim, who is seeking strict U.S. guidelines on tourist activities on the frozen continent and coordination of cruise ship visits to wildlife breeding areas.

The U.S. government defends its regulatory programme as sufficient, but conservationists are wary after a January 1989 fuel oil spill from an Argentine supply ship, the Bahia Paraiso, which was carrying 81 tourists.

Meanwhile, travel to the Himalayas has expanded enormously. Sir Edmund Hillary, who conquered Mount Everest in 1953, complained in March that tourist development was destroying much of the pristine beauty of the Himalayas. "The living standards are increasing, but the beautiful tracks and valleys have been littered," he said.

In Brazil, tourism is leading to encroachment on jungle tribes said Barnes, who added, "These are ancient peoples deserving as deep a respect as flowers and they are truly endangered."

Richard Brill, a U.S. tour operator who first started taking voyagers up the Amazon years ago, said tourists can now go all 5,120 kilometres. He said the trip is actually a good tool for promoting ambassadors for the Amazon.

"I can show you scores of letters from people who have taken my voyages, who have become involved right away with the Earth," he said.

Travel agents and tour operators are selling the trips to the affluent and well-travelled with this message: "Go now before environmental destruction of Earth's final frontiers is complete."

Washington-based environmental lobby with affiliates in 38 countries, said adventure tourism has both positive and negative effects.

"On the one hand, it's always useful to have intelligent and outwardly looking people to look at places in need of protection and it helps to provide a constituency for (environmental) protection," he said.

"But the scale of these activities is growing at such a pace that it does provide cause for concern

be a debate and then ... no tourist will want to visit some dead islands," said Gonzalo Ceron, one researcher on the islands.

Tourism is also up in Antarctica. About 800 tourists visited in 1988, nearly 3,000 in 1989, and more than 4,000 are expected in the December-February season. U.S.-based ocean cruise lines are about to send the largest cruise ship in years to Antarctica, the 460-passenger ocean princess. "This may be just the tip of the

## French and gambling

GAMBLING and betting already have a long history in France. The royal lottery, created in 1659, on the occasion of Louis XIV's wedding, resurrected under Louis XVI, banned and then authorised again in the revolution, and banned again in 1836, is the predecessor of the "Loterie Nationale," created in 1933. Similarly, the "Pari Mutuel sur l'Hippodrome" (PMH), created in 1891 is at the origin of the "Pari Mutuel Urbain (PMU) (betting on horse races), instituted in 1930.

In 1989, the French spent about 55 billion francs on gambling, the casino and betting. The state took about 12 billion francs of this in taxes.

Horse-racing, organised by the PMU comes in top place among the different forms of gambling the French are fond of. The favourite bets are the "Tierce" (choosing the first three winners), followed by the "doubles," which come ahead of the "backing four horses," "five horses," "three horses" and so on.

The PMU is a group of economic interest, made up of Paris racing companies and certain provincial racing companies. It comes under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1989, the PMU alone drew more than 31 billion francs. This figure puts the PMU in fourth position in the world of equivalent businesses. The state took nearly 6 billion francs of the 31 billion in taxes. The biggest win ever recorded in a PMU race was in September 1988. The lucky winner pocketed 3.803 million francs.

After the PMU comes the Loto, created in 1976, whose turnover for 1989 amounted to about 12 billion francs. Since its creation, there have already been 1,000 draws and it has made 3,061 people millionaires. In 1988, the biggest

prize in this game was won: nearly 33.5 million francs.

The Loto is run by the France Loto company, a public establishment 51 per cent of whose capital is held by the State. It has 35,000 sales outlets. France Loto also runs several other games, created in the last few years: the "loto sportif" (betting on the results of football matches, like the English football pools), created in 1985, "Tao-O-Tao" and "Tapis Vert," started in 1987. The latter is the latest of all the French games of chance. Not forgetting the old "Loterie Nationale."

In all, these games, whose lots are drawn most often live, after the television news, at peak viewing time, brought France Loto some 20 billion francs in 1989.

The remaining 2 billion francs are shared out among France's 144 casinos. Moreover, the turnover in this sector is considerably up on last year's, as, in 1988, casinos had only pulled in 1.2 billion francs. This increase is probably due to the recent installation of slot machines.

These machines, which are sometimes called "one-arm bandits," had been banned in 1983, and have only recently been reintroduced in about fifteen establishments. This is to the great delight of gamblers, casinos and the State whose percentage of profits increases as the turnover of gaming establishments goes up. In a single year, slot machines brought in some 500 million francs to the public coffers. Professionals are today betting on the coming introduction of new machines. A school for managers of slot machines was recently inaugurated in Deauville. It is the only school of its kind, apart from the one in Reno in the American state of Nevada — L'Actualite en France.



The French are gamblers. In 1989, they spent some 55 billion francs on gambling, the casino and betting, 12 billion francs of this money went to the state.

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## Polish workers threaten 90-minute work stoppage

WARSAW (AP) — Striking railroad workers threatened a 90-minute nationwide work stoppage Monday after rejecting a midnight appeal by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to settle their demands.

"It failed, goodbye," Walesa said as he left the strike headquarters in the city of Slupsk at 3 a.m. Sunday, following a three-hour meeting with strikers who had broken off negotiations with the government Saturday.

Walesa warned that the strikers' actions could lead to civil war and the resignation of Solidarity-backed Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The week-old strike has cut off freight from Poland's Baltic coast and train service across the country's northwest. Rail traffic from Poland's industrial south as well as Czechoslovakia and Hungary has been disrupted, and the army has been drafted to move essential goods.

The strike also has posed a mounting challenge to Poland's post-Communist reformers, who have refused to discuss pay demands they say could scuttle the country's economic "shock" programme, an attempt to move quickly from central planning to a market-based system.

Rail workers said they would not intensify the strike Sunday, during Poland's first fully democratic local elections since before World War II.

But the strike committee called for a nationwide strike from noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, followed by a two-hour cutoff of trains linking the three cities along the Gdansk Harbour. The committee also threatened a blockade of freight traffic nationwide at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

"These actions will be suspended if a competent government delegation arrives to hold talks" in Slupsk, the strikers said in a written statement. "No contacts between the government and the strike committee will mean actualisation of this schedule."

Officials say "thousands" of railroad workers are taking part in the strike but no more precise number has been given. The potential success of a nationwide work stoppage cannot be gauged, but transport officials have noted that a even small percentage of Poland's 400,000 rail workers could snarl traffic.

Walesa urged the workers to call off the strike. "Please do it for Poland," he said. "We don't want a civil war now, and what's going on now is leading to it."

Walesa has said the strikers have legitimate grievances but are being manipulated by their new champion, the OPZZ Union created by the Communist regime in 1982 after Solidarity was banned.

OPZZ Chairman Alfred Miodowicz, a former Communist

Party politburo member, began representing the renegade workers after the government refused to open negotiations because the wildcat strike was not being conducted by legal unions.

The government subsequently agreed to talks Saturday. But they broke down after Labour Minister Jacek Kuron reiterated his refusal to discuss wage demands. "I am willing to talk with everybody... about everything except wages," he said.

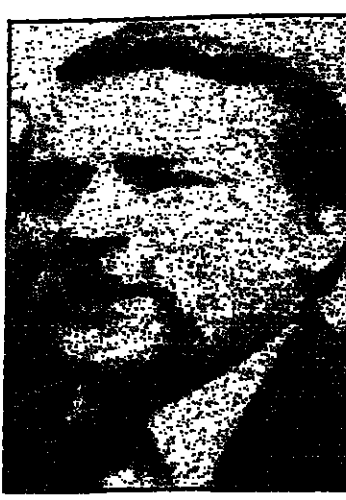
Walesa told the strikers the government cannot concede because "there are others waiting in line for strikes."

The government's concession "would be an indication that if one goes on strike, one gets whatever one wants. The prime minister will resign if protests spread," Walesa said.

Walesa's ambassadorial work on behalf of the government solidarity helped to create came despite his strained relations with Mazowiecki over the pace of reforms. The strikers accused Walesa of being an agent for the prime minister.

"I am not the government's agent... I am doing this for the democracy that is being built in Poland," he said.

The strikers rejected Walesa's plan to end the strike based on his personal guarantee to work for their demands and press his criticism of the government for "realising the reforms too slowly."



Lech Walesa

He proposed giving the government two strike-free weeks to resolve the grievances, backed by his promise to join a strike if no agreement was reached.

There were signs of disagreement between the strike committee, which has appeared to be seeking accord, and a group of more militant workers, including about 50 who conducted a hunger strike.

Mazowiecki has repeatedly voiced sympathy for the hardships Poles have suffered during the five-month-old bid to create a market economy from the shattered socialist system. Controlling wages and allowing prices to rise to market levels has refilled store shelves but reduced real incomes by an estimated 40 per cent.

## Israel begins research on a supercomputer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After U.S. reluctance to allow the export of supercomputers to Israel, Israeli scientists have begun research for an innovative system more powerful than anything the United States has right now, according to university officials.

Three Israeli institutions have applied for licenses to buy Cray and IBM supercomputers, but the permits have been held up out of concern that might use the fast-computing systems to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

An inter-agency administration team has been considering the applications for almost two years but has thus far refused to yield to pressure from manufacturers and lobbyists.

"The writing's on the wall," said Maia Hauser, the U.S. spokeswoman for Technion, Israel's leading high-tech university. "We'll have to go it on our own."

Technion applied in 1988 for a Cray-T for scientific and engineering research. The Weizman Science Institute and Bar-Ilan University also have pending license requests. The Commerce Department, which has final say on the licensing, is banned by law

from discussing supercomputer applications.

Israel has set up government committee to investigate the feasibility of entering into research and development of a new brand of supercomputer which is based on parallel computation techniques rather than on serial ones, said Technion Vice-President Brian Silver.

U.S. and West German scientists have started researching parallel computers.

Israel would have gone into such research anyway because that is the wave of the future in supercomputers but the U.S. hold on the supercomputers has given the project a strong push, he said.

"There's not much difficulty in us producing them within several years if we decide to," said Silver.

Technion scientists have already begun theoretical research into parallel computing and laboratories are being set up to conduct experiments, he said.

Technion has also discussed buying a sophisticated West German computer, which uses applications of parallel computations, to serve as a basis for a future Israeli supercomputers, he said.

## Soviets may have to quit Yemen oil exploration

SANAA (R) — Two Soviet firms licensed to explore for oil in the newly united Yemeni republic may have to withdraw from the agreement due to financial and technical problems, western oil industry sources said.

The sources said Machinimport and Zarugheologia — which together have an 18.75 per cent stake in a joint-venture consortium — were unable to meet some of the requirements of the agreement.

The Soviet firms were supposed to provide equipment and services to the other foreign companies exploring a 2,100 square kilometre area in the centre of the country.

But some of the other firms taking part — Hunt and Exxon of the United States, Frances CFP, Total and Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Corporation — said the Soviet equipment was below standard, the sources said.

They were also unable to pay their share of costs, the sources added.

"There are certain aspects of that agreement they're having trouble with and finance is one of them," one source said.

Last month, the joint Yemen Company for Investment in Oil and Mineral Resources licensed the consortium to explore in a common border area between the then North and South Yemen.

The new prime minister of the united Yemen, Haider Abubaker Al Attas, was quoted by Abu Dhabi's Al Itihad newspaper as saying his government would give attention to "intensifying the

search for oil and natural resources."

Former North Yemeni Oil Minister Ahmed Ali Al Muhani told Reuters early in May the consortium would spend a minimum of \$37 million to drill seven wells and carry out seismic surveys over five years.

The two Yemenis united last Tuesday and South Yemen's Oil Minister Saleh Abu Bakr Ibn Hussain was chosen as minister of oil and mineral resources of the new republic.

Consortium operator CFP-Total had short-listed four firms to begin a seismic survey of the area, the sources said.

They are the French Compagnie Generale de Geophysique, and U.S. firms Western Geophysical, Halliburton and Norpac.

A decision is expected by mid-June with work due to begin by early July.

Experts said the oil reserves of what used to be socialist South Yemen, although believed to be far greater than further north, were largely untapped because of problems encountered by Soviet experts.

Yemen's volcanic rock formation and high gas content make drilling difficult, they said.

Before the merger, North Yemen pumped 185,000 barrels per day (bpd) and South Yemen about 15,000.

Western oil industry sources said the opening of a 120,000 bpd export pipeline to the southern Bir Ali export terminal scheduled for April has been delayed because Soviet builders had cash problems.

## Japan questions wisdom of slashing trade surplus

By Barbara Mackinnon  
Reuters

TOKYO — The feeling is growing in Tokyo and abroad that Japan's drive to slash its current account surplus may be misguided at a time when huge amounts of "Japan money" are needed to fund development in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a report this month indicated that Japan's surplus should be maintained and some voices in Tokyo may be starting to agree.

Since 1985 Japan, reacting to pressure especially from the United States, has been trying to cut its surplus by expanding domestic demand and increasing imports.

The efforts have paid off. Japan's surplus in current account, the measure of trade in goods and services, fell 30.4 per cent to \$53.5 billion in the fiscal year just ended, January say its first monthly deficit in six years.

Now the government's economic planning agency is considering whether to set a limit to the fall, an agency official said.

"We will aim for a balanced level at which Japan can sustain sound economic development, and fulfill its international responsibility," Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told parliament last week.

Hashimoto's remarks followed publication of the IMF's outlook on the world economy, which said in part: "...The possibility of

a rise in world demand for saving associated with recent and prospective developments in Germany and Eastern Europe suggests that it might not be desirable for Japan to eliminate its external surplus over the next few years, especially through actions that would reduce national savings."

Giles Keating, director of economics at Credit Suisse First Boston, said East European countries would require at least \$30 billion in "seed money" to get market economies started, and eventually hundreds of billions of dollars for reforms.

Japan's current account surplus peaked at \$94 billion or 4.5 per cent of gross national product (GNP) in 1986-87 and has been falling since. Its \$53.5 billion surplus in 1989 was to per cent of GNP — the same as in 1983, when the surplus began rising.

"With the surplus falling to two per cent of GNP, and Eastern Europe needing huge funds for economic reforms, Japan may have to see if a further decline is favourable," a government official said.

Private economists said Japan's current account surplus should be kept at about 1.5 to two per cent of GNP to give it the excess money it needs to fund overseas development.

"Given Japan's economic strength, its surplus should be around two per cent of GNP," said Shigeru Matsushita, a chief economist at Sanwa Research Institute.

The IMF report should give Japan ammunition to fight U.S. criticism that its trade surplus is still too high, economists said.

"Japan could use the argument to fight pressures to open its market more to U.S. goods," said a senior economist at a big bank here.

But the United States may also be coming around to the idea that Japan's trade surplus is necessary to a certain degree, some economists said.

"The U.S. may want to stay a policy maker, while using Japan as a provider of money for economic aid to Eastern Europe," said the big bank economist.

Predicting that Japan's trade surplus would disappear in the next few years, private researcher Tadashi Nakamae told a recent symposium: "The elimination of trade imbalances in the 1990s will severely limit the flow of capital from Japan and the U.S. to developing economies such as those of Eastern Europe."

Most economists, however, say it is unlikely that Japan's current account surplus will soon disappear.

"Returns from increasing direct investment by Japanese firms abroad will rise in years ahead, helping push up Japan's overall current account surplus," Bank of Tokyo economist Souichi Enkyo said. The bank expects the surplus to fall to about \$48 billion in 1990/91.

## Abu Dhabi aims for \$18 a barrel

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi's top oil official has urged Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members to stick to production quotas to force oil prices back to at least \$18 a barrel, a Qatar paper reported.

"Eighteen dollars a barrel must be the minimum price to which OPEC must stick in order to safeguard its interests," Al Rayah quoted Sheikh Khalifa bin Zaid Al Nahayan as saying in an article due to be published Saturday.

"We hope other OPEC states will comply with their quotas so prices will stay at a reasonable level," Sheikh Khalifa was quoted as saying in the article, made available to Reuters before publication.

Sheikh Khalifa, chairman of the Supreme Petroleum Council of Abu Dhabi, said ministers from OPEC would consider a new output ceiling and quota system when they met in Geneva in July.

High OPEC production has sent prices sliding. The market has been watching for firm signs that members are cutting output.

Abu Dhabi produces around two-thirds of the output of the United Arab Emirates, which said this month it would cut production by 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) as part of an OPEC agreement to prop up prices.

## Uprising takes its toll on Liberia

By Robert Mahoney  
Reuters

MONROVIA — Half-stocked store shelves, a petrol shortage, empty hotels and a scramble for U.S. dollars are some of the signs that a six-month old rebellion in Liberia is hurting more than just the army.

The economy is in deep trouble. Africa's oldest independent republic is well in arrears on its foreign debt and is facing possible expulsion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for non-payment of loans.

Economists say the prospects for clearing up the economic and financial mess without great pain, which was seen even before the rebel uprising, are now nil.

The government of President Samuel Doe, accused by critics of corruption, was technically bankrupt even before the rebel uprising, having mortgaged most of the foreign exchange revenues due from exporters in 1990, economists say.

Since then, it has since been printing extra money to pay for arms and men to fight the rebels. Bankers estimate \$50 million worth of Liberian notes have been printed in the past 10 months, much of it since December when the rebel force launched its attack against the government.

Led by Charles Taylor, the rebel leaders have since grown from 150 lightly-armed people to an estimated 5,000.

They have pushed down

through the country from the north, seizing control of some important export plants, and have vowed to take the capital Monrovia. They attacked the second port of Buchanan at the weekend.

Since the uprising, exports have come down by a third, tax revenues have dropped by a quarter and the treasury is desperate for foreign exchange, economists said.

Prices in the increasingly empty shops of Monrovia are soaring. Many traders have cut stocks by 75 per cent as a precaution against looting if the rebels reach the capital.

The fuel tanks at Monrovia port are full but the foreign-owned importing company will not release petrol because the government cannot pay in U.S. dollars.

### Liberian dollar

The Liberian dollar is officially at par to the U.S. dollar, but economic and fiscal mismanagement since Doe seized power in a bloody coup in 1980 soon caused a currency black market to spring up.

Since the uprising, the unofficial rate has jumped to 3.5 Liberian dollars to one U.S. dollar from a rate of two to one.

"People with money are rushing to get it into U.S. dollars and out of the country. They are bidding up the price," said one of the Lebanese trader who dominates business here along with In-

dians. Liberia, founded by freed American slaves who settled in 1822, relies on exporting rubber, timber and iron ore to bring in hard currency.

"So far the damage to the export-based industries has not been too bad they could resume fairly quickly if the situation is resolved" one banker said. "But if the war drags on then assets, particularly at the Yekpa mine, could deteriorate."

Exporters must currently surrender a quarter of their earnings to the treasury at the official one-to-one rate, but the government is now proposing to lift the effective surrender rate to 45 per cent.

It spends most of its hard currency on price and petroleum imports.

Liberia was \$860 million in arrears (190 per cent of annual exports) on its foreign debt of nearly \$2 billion at the start of 1989. It risks expulsion from the IMF in August if it fails to start repayments on its \$310 million debt to the fund, bankers said.

International aid and private investment are also drying up. Liberia received \$500 million under the Reagan administration, making it the largest recipient of U.S. aid in black Africa.

But congressmen and Liberian exiles in the United States have lobbied for aid to be cut, accusing the Doe government of corruption, human rights abuses and misuse of U.S. funds.

This year Liberia will get just \$7.5 million worth of U.S. rice, American officials said.

Exports of gold and diamonds, often smuggled from neighbouring Guinea, have also dried up, traders said.

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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 28, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Your need for a greater amount of awareness as to just what exactly is going on today, requires that you stand off and quietly analyse all factors of your present obligation.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You would be wise to get off quickly by yourself or with a confidential advisor to map out a course of action wherein your private dreams could come true.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) An understanding friend who has your interests very much at heart is the person for you to turn to for assistance in gaining a cherished longing.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) A day to let be known to whomever you want favours in the outside world and then to carry through by indicating your expertise.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Be especially cordial to a new acquaintance with whom you want some continuing contact and join forces in doing whatever you both wish.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Find out early what your attachment especially wants you to do and make a point that you do it for it can have intermittent benefits follow for you.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Now you are aware of how best to impress one you would like to

have as a partner or an associate in let that person know of your decision.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) A day to make sure you get everything about you in apple pie condition so that it is easier for you to operate there-in in business or comfort.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Make dates early to see those congenial companions with whom you most like to spend your off-hours at entertainments and amusements.

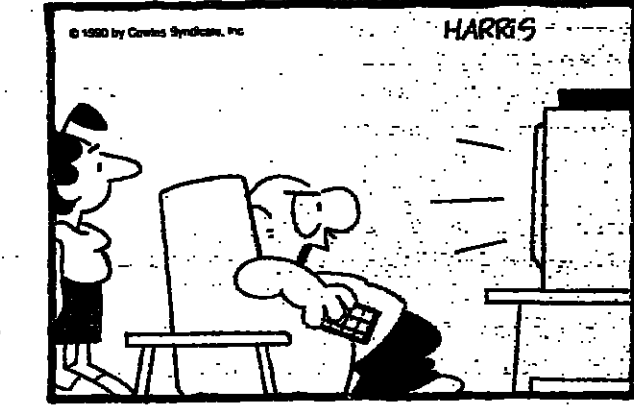
**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your home concerns are quite evident now and you are able to handle them in a very practical fashion; be sure to cooperate with your family.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A good time to catch up on your correspondence etc., as the right word, phrase and sentence come to you easily and it's also possible to make quick contacts.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) What a day for you to get into the various practical and material interests by which you can increase your assets and holdings; get rid of obligations.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Be just as personal and subjective as you like today and do what will enhance your appearance and your health, see and be with good companions.

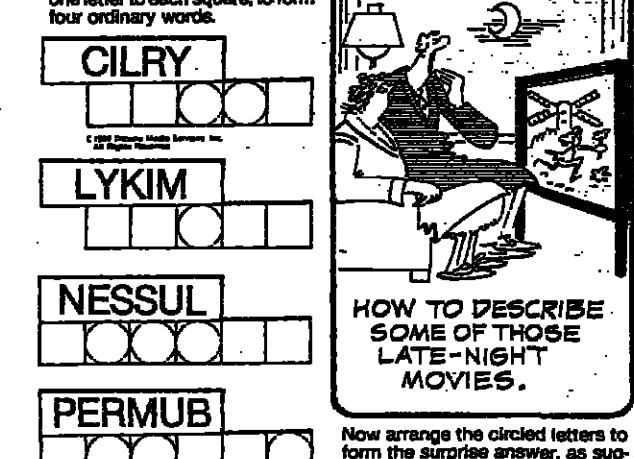
## THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



"They did it again! A pizza ad, then a diet pill ad, then a burger ad!"

## JUMBLE, THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

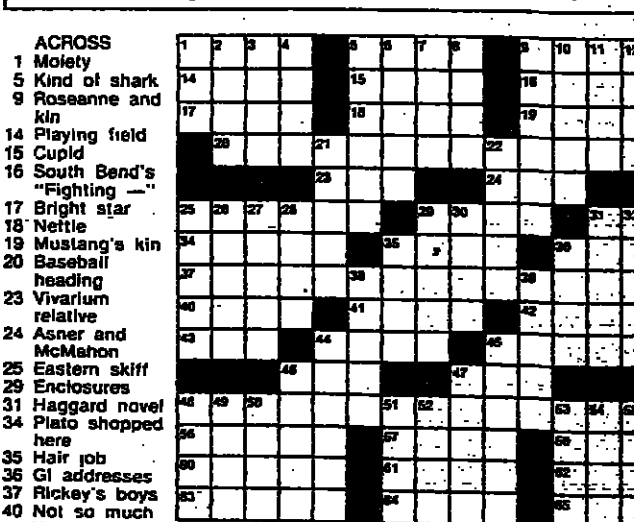
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: "CIRCLE" OF THE "PERMUTATION" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: EPOCH LYING BODILY OUTCRY  
Answer: What the mountaineer's mascot was — "TOP DOG"

## THE Daily Crossword by Louis Satory



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, May 27, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.3	450.0
Pound Sterling	1129.9	1136.7	Dutch guilder	352.9	355.0
Deutsche mark	397.0	399.4	Swedish crown	110.2	110.9
Swiss franc	469.6	472.4	Italian lira (for 100)	54.1	54.4
French franc	118.0	118.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	192.3	193.5



## AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Baseball results for games played on Friday May 25.

**T-BALL:** All five teams: Data Mini, Aqaba Shipping Co., Jordan Library, Nashashibi/Bibini and Jordan Express played their final games.

## COACH-PITCH

Amman 19	Comcent 8
MSK 23	Pirelli 15
Epson 13	AFC 4
Intercon. 19	AICI 10

## KID-PITCH

NECC 16	Marriott 4
Danish Dairy 16	Mr. Chips 2
Westinghouse 19	J.W.M. 11

## SOFTBALL

Qaddoumi Agri. 11	Volvo 1
Nadas 10	2nd T.A. 5

## BASEBALL STANDINGS

## COACH-PITCH

TEAM	WON	LOST
NSI	6	1
Epson	6	1
Aramex	5	2
Intercon.	5	2
AICI	2	5
Pirelli	2	5
Comcent	1	6
AFC	1	6

## KID-PITCH

TEAM	WON	LOST
NECC	9	0
Danish D.	7	2
Westinghouse	4	5
J.W.M.	3	6
Mr. Chips	2	7
Marriott	2	7

## SOFTBALL

TEAM	WON	LOST
Qaddoumi	5	2
NADAS	4	2
2.T.A.	3	2
Volvo	2	4

T-ball action at home plate

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMAR RUSCH  
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## ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠AQ43 ♠75 ♠AJ862 ♠763  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 West North East South  
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠  
 Pass 1 NT Pass ?  
 What action do you take?  
 A.—Partner is not running from one spade with a weak hand; he is making a forward-going bid. That means he should have at least the equivalent of an opening bid. We suggest you invite game by raising to two no trump.  
 Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠AS ♠AK98 ♠AJ84 ♠Q83  
 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?  
 A.—You are in the slam zone, but you have no idea yet where you want to play the hand. To leave the maximum room for exploration respond one diamond. Partner's next bid will help clarify his holding.  
 Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
 ♠84 ♠76 ♠J53 ♠AK7643  
 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?  
 A.—You do not have quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is one no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.  
 Q.4—As South, vulnerable with 40 on score, you hold:  
 ♠Veld ♠77632 ♠AJ1865432  
 ♠Veld ♠77632 ♠AJ1865432  
 What is your opening bid?  
 A.—A reader submitted this hand with the suggestion that South should open four diamonds. The problem is that diamonds might go down when seven hearts makes! We recommend a pass, to see what develops.  
 Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
 ♠Q7 ♠K84 ♠653 ♠K1063  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 North East South West  
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠  
 1 NT Pass ?  
 What action do you take?  
 A.—Partner has shown a balanced minimum opening bid. Since your hand is a balanced minimum response, a pass is the best you can hope for. Pass, even though you have four-card support for partner's minor and your side surely has an eight-card club fit.  
 Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠KJ1098 ♠732 ♠AS8 ♠KM  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 North East South West  
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠  
 1 NT Pass ?  
 What do you bid now?  
 A.—Point count does not do full justice to your hand. All the values are prime, you have a fifth trump, good intermediates, a high honor in partner's suit and a ruffing value. This hand revalues to a full opening bid, so jump to four spades.

## Lopez earns \$95,000 at Skins

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Nancy Lopez sunk two of only four birdies managed in winds that gustied to 45 MPH (72 KPH) and won \$95,000 Saturday on the front nine of the LPGA's first Skins game.

Lopez won \$45,000 with a downhill 20-foot birdie putt on the sixth hole at the Stonebriar country club course, and added another \$50,000 with a 12-footer on the eight.

Betsy King, the current holder of the U.S. Women's Open and Dinah Shore titles, was the only other money-winner in the 30-40 MPH (48-64 KPH) winds.

The final nine holes will be played Monday.

King won \$45,000 with a two-putt for par-5 on the third hole. Jan Stephenson, trying to make a comeback from a career-threatening finger injury, and veteran Joanne Carner were shut out.

"It definitely hurts your confidence," Stephenson said. "You're afraid you're going to be left out."

"I feel like I'm learning to play

golf all over again," she said. Stephenson suffered a career-threatening shattered ring finger on her left hand earlier this year when she was robbed in a parking lot outside a professional basketball game in Miami.

"I don't feel very comfortable with my swing," said Stephenson, who had a potential skin stolen from her by the 51-year-old Carner.

On the fourth hole, Stephenson rolled in a 22-footer for birdie-3 and appeared a probable winner.

But Carner made a downhill 20-footer to halve the hole.

Under the format that requires the prize money on each hole to be carried forward if there is not a clear winner, the birdies counted for nothing.

Lopez, a Hall of Fame member and Player of the Decade for the 1980's, scored the only other birdies.

And they counted heavily. There were two carry-overs, worth a total of \$45,000, when she went to the tee on the par-3

sixth. King's and Stephenson's tee shots were about six and 10 feet from the cup. Carner missed the green while Lopez put her shot on the upper level of the two-tiered green, about 20 feet from the pin.

Lopez made the left-to-right breaking birdie putt and King and Stephenson missed theirs.

"I wasn't very comfortable with my putting. The wind made it tough," King said.

On the par-5, 492-yard eighth, Lopez put her second shot in a greenside bunker. Carner was short in two, and King and Stephenson each reached in two.

Carner pinched on but was about 20 feet from the pin in three.

## ITF attacks ATP Tour

PARIS (R) — International Tennis Federation (ITF) President Philippe Chatrier said Sunday the newly created ATP Tour had done nothing to improve the game.

"There is too much money involved in tennis... and the creation of the ATP Tour has not changed anything. Players still want more money to play less," he said in an interview with the French weekly Le Journal Du Dimanche.

The ATP, the Association of Tennis Professionals, took over last year the organization of the men's circuit from the ITF.

Chatrier said since the launch of the new tour at the beginning of the season many tournaments had been marred by withdrawals from top players.

"Faked injuries... are the rule," he said.

Chatrier said the ATP had asked tournament organizers to double the prize money and had promised them six top players for every tournament. The organizers must feel they have been fooled, he added.

"I shall do everything within my power to ensure that the game still prevails over money. Otherwise, tennis will become like boxing, with its four federations, its 67 world champions."

## Egypt, Colombia draw 1-1 in World Cup warm-up

CAIRO — Egypt, recent 3-1 surprise winners over Scotland, were held to a 1-1 draw at home after fellow World Cup finalists Colombia snatched a late equalizer in a soccer friendly Saturday.

Eight minutes from the end substitute Freddy Rincon was left unmarked with only goalkeeper Ahmed Shubier to beat and he slotted the ball neatly into the left-hand corner of the net to level the scores.

Egypt, yet to name their 22-man squad for the finals, pressed hard in the opening minutes and playmaker Taher Abu Zeid twice forced Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita into making fine saves.

Colombia fought their way back into the game and striker Carlos Estrada came close three times in the space of five minutes.

But almost on the stroke of halftime Egypt's Hassan twins combined to give the home side the lead.

Ibrahim Hassan sent over a superb cross which found his brother Hosam unmarked in the penalty area. Higuita appeared to have headed covered but it spun awkwardly after hitting the ground and shot into the net.

In other matches, Romania battled back from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 with fellow World Cup finalists Belgium in a soccer friendly Saturday.

Belgium went ahead in the sixth minute through midfielder Enzo Scifo, back in the side after losing his place under coach Walter Meuwens, who was replaced by veteran Guy Thys in February.

Scifo, who plays for French club Auxerre, dribbled into the penalty area before slipping the ball past diving Romanian goalkeeper Silviu Lung.

Belgian defender Leo Clijsters left Lung helpless again in the 28th minute with a superb lob from just inside the penalty area.

The Belgians, with Scifo dominating the midfield, continued to trouble the Romanians who were playing their final warm-up match before the World Cup.

Two halftime substitutions gave Romania some extra impetus, however, and they pulled a goal back within seven minutes through defender Mircea Rednic.

Daniel Timofte, who came on for midfielder Gheorghe Hagi — recently signed by Spanish champions Real Madrid — and Florin Raducioiu injected fire into the Romanian side which pushed forward for the equaliser.

The second goal came in the 65th minute from a penalty by Marius Lacatus after Raducioiu was fouled by Stephane Demol.

Thys, who also made two half-time substitutions, said the result was not important. "If it had been a World Cup match I would have told my players to shut the door after the first half. Now I just tried out new things," he said.

Thys has two more opportunities to fine tune his side against Mexico on June 2 and Poland on June 6.

In Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, Emilio Butragueno scored from close range to give World Cup qualifiers Spain a barely deserved 1-0 win over fellow finalists Yugoslavia in a soccer friendly Saturday.

Yugoslav goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic had been troubled only three times during the match when winger Manuel Manolo dummed full back Predrag Spasic and sent over a cross in the 56th minute.

The ball flew past Ivkovic and Real Madrid forward Butragueno easily scored from three metres.

Yugoslavia dominated the first half and created several chances but repeatedly failed with the final touch.

Dragan Stojkovic, who has signed a \$7 million preliminary contract with French champions Marseille, was at the heart of most of Yugoslavia's threatening attacks.

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A- The Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

B- Description of Tender Tender Price/Non-refundable

1- Central Tender No. (20/90) 150 JD

Construction of Hay Nazza Al-Sharqi Male and Female School Building Area (8300) sq.m.

2- Central Tender No. (21/90) 100 JD

Construction of Alkarak Male School Buildings Area (4300) sq.m.

C. Last date for purchase of Tender document on Sunday 8th July, 1990.

D. Work load will be considered in awarding.

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Chairman, Central Tenders Committee

Government Tenders Directorate.

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# Gorbachev expects to clash with Bush over NATO and Germany

NEW YORK (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev says he and George Bush have come to trust each other, but are certain to disagree at their upcoming summit over whether a unified Germany should belong to NATO.

While many Americans and Europeans credit the North Atlantic alliance with keeping peace during the cold war, Gorbachev sees it as a symbol of "a dangerous and confrontational past." Gorbachev said in an interview with Time magazine.

"For our people too, NATO is associated with the cold war — but as an organization designed from the start to be hostile to the Soviet Union... and we will never agree to assign it the leading role in building a new Europe," he said.

Gorbachev gave the interview Tuesday at his office in Moscow. A transcript is to appear in the June 4 edition of the U.S. based weekly news magazine. Copies were released in advance to the media.

Asked by Time whether he expects to disagree with Bush over whether a unified Germany should join NATO, Gorbachev said, "I wouldn't say I expect a major disagreement — I'll state for a fact that there will be one."

But "I do expect the differences to be narrowed," Time quoted Gorbachev as saying of the upcoming talks with Bush in Washington.

Bush and Gorbachev are to begin their summit Thursday and conclude it Sunday with a news conference.

The U.S. and West German governments have insisted that membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a precondition for a unified Germany.

Bush told reporters Saturday he will try to persuade Gorbachev to accept NATO membership as a precondition for a unified Germany.

many in NATO. "I think it's going to take a while before we have agreement on how a post-German unification Europe looks," Bush said.

"My job is to convince him that there is no threat to the Soviet Union from a united Germany in NATO and, I'm absolutely convinced there is no threat to him and I think it's stabilising."

But Gorbachev in recent days has taken on a tough position on NATO membership, warning that any such move would force the Kremlin to review its position in all major arms control negotiations.

Leaders of West and East Germany have said they want a united Germany to be part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, as have three of the four victorious allies from World War II — France, the United States and Britain — at special "two plus four" talks on Germany's future.

Only Moscow, faced with the loss of its strategic Warsaw Pact ally East Germany, has resisted the idea. It has proposed at various times that a united Germany should be neutral, non-aligned, or a member of both NATO and Warsaw Pact.

"One other point on this subject," Gorbachev said in the interview. "It sometimes seems to me that some in the West pretend to be more enthusiastic about German unification than they really are. They even hope to use us to put a brake on unification so that we will get the blame and end up at loggerheads with the Germans."

Western officials have remarked in recent weeks that Moscow has been applying the brakes in the conventional forces talks in Vienna. They assumed it was because of Soviet worries about German unity.

Gorbachev said previously that he wanted progress at those talks, but that those who favoured a united Germany in NATO were disturbing the delicate balance in Europe.

He urged Germans on the path to unification to never forget that their country is pivotal to peace in Europe.

"It (unification) affects the vital interests of many countries in Europe, including the Soviet Union, which sacrificed more than anyone to make sure that war should never again come from Germany territory," said Gorbachev.

"Not even the most sincere assurances given now, in this headlong rush, can substitute for solid international guarantees that Germany will always pursue peaceful development and peaceful policies toward other countries," he said.

The Kremlin leader's comments mirrored remarks he made in Moscow Friday at a press conference with visiting French President Francois Mitterrand.

He said then that Western insistence that a united Germany be a full member of NATO could force Moscow to reconsider its attitude to the entire European detente process.

But Gorbachev also indicated that Moscow would be willing to consider a united Germany with the same status in NATO as France, that is, as a member of the political organisation but not integrated into the military command.

Metzler trust

In the interview, he said he and Bush "have come to trust each other more since our discussions

at Malta," where their previous summit was held last December. He also said "a mutual understanding had emerged that the cold war has become a thing of the past."

But, he warned, "the strength of our relationship is being tested, and it will be tested again in the future."

The wide-ranging interview, held in the Kremlin, also touched on Soviet domestic issues, including the painful transition to a market-based economy and the attempted secession of the Baltic republics.

Some of his comments were given in writing to questions submitted in advance.

Economic reforms

Gorbachev said the Soviet government's plan for economic reform, unveiled last week by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, charts "a radical path" but avoids the shock of an overnight transition from central planning to a free market.

He predicted that one or two years will be needed to set up market mechanisms, including "various laws on taxes, enterprise, antitrust, credit, finance and social protection — the safety net."

But he said the development of a full-fledged market economy would take much longer. He also conceded that both high inflation and unemployment are likely during the transition.

Gorbachev indicated that the future Soviet economic system would have elements of capitalism, including "shareholder companies" and "leasehold properties," but said it might follow the example of France and Scandinavia, where "a significant portion of the economy is publicly held."

He also cast doubt on whether the ultimate goal should be an American-style consumer

society. "It would be an (environmental) catastrophe if all the countries of the world tried to achieve the standard of living of the U.S.," he said, noting that "America already consumes a disproportionate share of the world's energy resources."

Gorbachev reiterated that he is seeking a "political solution" to secessionist moves by Lithuania and its sister republics, Latvia and Estonia. But he avoided discussing the specifics of a possible compromise.

"We are looking for a way to restore constitutional order and authority, and to do so by political means. Let me just stop there, particularly recently we've seen some new and encouraging signs," he said.

Gorbachev met last week with Lithuanian leaders for the first time since the republic's parliament declared independence on March 11. The meeting followed an offer by the Lithuanians to suspend all the laws they have passed since the declaration, if the Kremlin would agree to enter talks.

The parliament has refused to suspend the declaration itself — a step Gorbachev insists on as a condition for ending Moscow's economic embargo on the republic.

Despite the Soviet Union's waning economy, the Baltic impasse and other domestic problems, Gorbachev said the Soviet Union "is a different society now" and "we will never slip backwards."

The troops were sent to the Armenian capital on the eve of Armenia's National Day — marking the start of the republic's

brief period of independence, won in 1918 and ended by Russian troops two years later.

The Armenian press said tensions were already very high at the station when the troops train arrived.

She said an Armenian train pulled into the station two hours earlier after being attacked on its way through the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan.

"Windows were smashed. People were taken out of the train injured," she said.

TASS news agency said Friday that a soldier was shot dead at point-blank range in the main bus station of Stepanakert on Thursday night. Other troops were wounded in attacks on army checkpoints. One Armenian militant was also killed.

The nationalist Armenian National Movement accused Soviet troops Friday of driving through streets in Stepanakert and firing at will into crowds.

A spokesman for the movement said the armed forces were angered by Armenia's defiance of Moscow in extending republic-wide elections to Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenians there voted in secret in private houses.

The movement said it planned meetings Sunday and Monday to mark the National Day.

The Transcaucasus region, embracing Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, has been the worst violence in five years of Soviet liberal reforms that have unleashed strong nationalist passions.

The area suffered some of the bloodiest purges of the Stalinist era. The Nagorno-Karabakh dispute is one of the biggest challenges facing President Mikhail Gorbachev, who also faces a peaceful rebellion in the northern Baltic republics.

Another Armenian journalist said seven people had been killed. He said he had been told by army officials the soldiers opened fire because they thought the crowd were militants who wanted to seize their weapons.

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military, citing a "breakdown of law and order," has formed an anti-terrorist force of 3,000 men to fight Communist death squads and right-wing army rebels linked to bombings and killings in Manila.

"It seems that we now have a breakdown of law and order," Paramilitary Constabulary Chief Major-General Cesar Nazareno said late Saturday at a news conference where he announced the creation of the elite combat brigade.

Nazareno said the unit would start operating Monday armed with high-powered guns, including recoilless rifles.

Communist death squads gunned down Colonel Reynaldo Dino, a constabulary deputy chief, and seven other people in two street ambushes during the past week.

Grenade attacks on two banks and an army checkpoint and attempts to bomb other offices in the Makati Financial District during the week have heightened tension around the capital.

The military blamed rebel soldiers for the bomb attacks, saying they were intended to create political instability and further weaken President Corason Aquino's government.

## Soviet troops kill 6 Armenians in Yerevan

MOSCOW (R) — Six Armenians were shot dead in clashes with Interior Ministry troops at Yerevan railway station early Sunday, the Interior Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman told Reuters by telephone from the Armenian capital that clashes erupted when a train full of Interior Ministry troops arrived. Local people streamed to the central station to turn them away.

Six people, Armenians from the local population, were shot dead. No troops were killed," he said.

The spokesman said the railway station was still sealed off by troops.

"Tensions are very high here," a journalist at the Armenian Press Agency Armenpress told Reuters from Yerevan. "The troops are terrorising our people in Yerevan and Stepanakert. There was no cause to send troops to Yerevan. Everything was peaceful here," she said.

She said people flooded to the railway station Sunday morning to plead with the troops to go back.

"People asked the soldiers what they were doing here and told them to go back," she added.

Stepanakert is the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave in the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan that has been the focus of bloody clashes over the last two years.

The head of Soviet Interior Ministry Forces Yuri Shatalin described the situation in Armenia Friday as explosive and said he was flying to the Transcaucasian republic to head off bloodshed.

More than 180 people have been killed in clashes over Armenia's demand for political control over Nagorno-Karabakh. But Moscow has allowed Azerbaijan to retain the territory, stirring furious resentment in Armenia against Kremlin authorities as well as Azerbaijan.

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MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Rebel troops have advanced to within 50 kilometres of this capital city, the closest they have reached since launching their invasion five months ago, Western diplomatic sources said.

A rebel spokesman, meanwhile, denied a claim by the government of President Samuel Doe that government forces had recaptured the strategic port of Buchanan.

"Someone in Monrovia is tooting his horn and continues to lie, to keep up the charade I suppose," said the spokesman, Tom Woewiyu, in a telephone interview late Saturday from his home in East Orange, New Jersey.

The government claimed Thursday to have retaken the port, 142 kilometres southeast of Monrovia, four days after rebels seized it.

Woewiyu, who spoke with the Associated Press upon returning from talks with State Department officials in Washington, said there has been no fighting in Buchanan since the National Patriotic Front rebels easily captured the city.

Woewiyu, citing United States intelligence sources, said that before the city fell, the general commanding Doe's troops in Buchanan had reported to his superiors in Monrovia that all but 71 of his 600 soldiers had fled.

"We had expected a very large force (in Buchanan) but by the time the fighting actually took place a lot of them had run away," said Woewiyu, adding that more than 1,000 rebels had participated in the assault.

The account could not be independently confirmed but Western diplomatic sources and shipping officials in Liberia also disputed the government's claim that its forces had retaken Buchanan.

Woewiyu said the U.S. State

Department is trying to get rebel and government officials to negotiate an end to the fighting.

But the rebels will not open talks unless Doe resigns and surrenders to the rebels for trial on "murder, genocide, human rights abuses" and other alleged crimes, Woewiyu said.

Woewiyu said Doe, who led a coup in 1980 in this West African country founded by former slaves from the U.S., is responsible for the deaths of thousands of his opponents and has plundered the nation's treasury.

On Saturday, rebel forces captured a roadblock from government forces outside the town of Kakata, 50 kilometres northeast of Monrovia, and briefly moved into the town before being driven out by government troops, according to diplomatic sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The sources said rebels were also seen near the international airport, 50 kilometres southeast of the capital.

In Monrovia, about 500 members of the two tribes — the Gio and Mano — that have largely supported the rebels crowded into the local United Nations headquarters Saturday, pleading for protection from attacks by government forces, according to Michael Heyn, chief U.N. representative in Monrovia.

Heyn said talks were under way with the government to assure their safety.

About 300 people had asked for help from the U.S. embassy Friday but were turned away.

The refugees said many of their friends and relatives have been killed or detained.

## Probe finds no proof of contra massacre claims

MANAGUA (AP) — Members of an investigative team named by the president announced Saturday that they could find no proof of rebel claims that the army massacred 14 of their fighters who had laid down their weapons.

"We haven't been able to confirm the existence of any dead alleged by the Nicaraguan Resistance," Santiago Murray, representative of the United Nations International Support and Verification Commission, said in a news conference.

Rebel leaders walked out of disarmament talks with the government Friday demanding an investigation of what they claimed was an army massacre of 14 former rebel fighters and 100 civilians. The U.S.-backed rebels, known as contras, said the massacre took place near Waslala in Matagalpa province, 241 kilometres northeast of Managua.

The investigative commission, named by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Friday, travelled by helicopter to the area Saturday and interviewed army and rebel leaders, Murray said.

He said the commission members have found no information about "any dead or other serious incident."

In interviews Saturday with residents, rebels and officials in the Waslala area, the Associated Press encountered no testimony supporting the contra claim.

The people interviewed near Waslala in the community of Zinica, where rebels alleged the incident occurred on May 18, seemed surprised by the news of a massacre and said they had heard about it from a Managua radio station.

The investigating commission consisted of government delegates, U.N. officials, Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo and a contra representative.

Contra Commander Oscar Sovalbarro was named to the commission but he remained in Managua Saturday in a hotel where he said he and 18 other contras were being held "hostage" by police.

Elite police units surrounded two Managua hotels — the Intercontinental and the Mercedes — where the rebels were staying after breaking off disarmament talks.

The police did not appear to be threatening the rebels, but contra leaders said they were told they could not leave the hotel grounds.

Salvador rebels accused of executing civilians

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leftist rebels in El Salvador have flagrantly violated international law by executing hundreds of civilians over the years without proper judicial procedures, a human rights group has said.

Americas Watch, a privately funded group based in New York, said in a report the FMLN rebels should immediately halt trials of suspected war criminals until the insurgents can prove the proceedings comply with international standards.

It also called on the insurgents to renounce the use of the death penalty to punish offences related to the civil war.

The report said the rebels are bound by the terms of Geneva Convention rules which provide for the protection of victims of civil conflicts.

Specifically, the study accused the insurgents in some instances of carrying out assassination-style executions of government officials, members of civil defence groups and others said to be government informers or collaborators.

They cited El Salvador's attorney general, Roberto Garcia Alvarado, as being the victim of an "extrajudicial slaying" a year ago.

In other instances, the report said the victims were given the death penalty after being subjected to a flawed judicial proceedings in areas controlled by the rebels.

## Yugoslav premier faces row over plans to create new party

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic ran into a political row Sunday over plans to create a party separate from the ruling Communists to contest a free general election expected later this year.

Markovic told Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in an interview Friday that he and his Communist government intended to form a new party and rally a coalition around his programme of Western-style economic reforms.

He hinted he may run against the League of Communists (LCY), which has ruled Yugoslavia for 45 years, in the country's first free federal election since before World War II.

But Serbian newspapers attacked Markovic's remarks and a government statement last week demanding that the results of free regional elections which ousted the Communists in the republics of Croatia and Slovenia are respected.

"If we take into account the fact that Ante Markovic and the government came to power thanks to the LCY, this must appear at the very least incomprehensible and shameful," the Serbian newspaper Politika Ekspres said Sunday.

It suggested that Markovic sought a monopoly on power, although he made clear in Friday's interview that he wanted to remain prime minister only if elected in a free poll.

"With its statement (on the elections in Slovenia and Croatia), the cabinet of Ante Markovic has stabbed in the back the state of law which he so passionately advocates, especially abroad. He has done this by legalising fascism," the daily said.

It appeared to be referring to the victory in Croatia of the Croatian Democratic Union, which has been accused of fervent nationalism by the media in Serbia, the biggest of the six Yugoslav republics and an advocate of strong central rule.

The Serbian newspaper Politika, which usually reflects the views of the republic's Communist Party leaders, devoted a whole page to attacking Markovic, prime minister since March 1989.

The only initial support came from the Socialist Alliance, a leftist organisation which Tanjug News Agency said was ready to nominate Markovic as an election candidate.

Markovic's programme of economic reforms, which include tight controls on money supply and closing loss-making factories, has won wide approval in Yugoslavia.

Superpowers fear India-Pakistan nuclear clash on Kashmir — report

LONDON (R) — The U.S. and Soviet governments fear nuclear war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir after intelligence reports that both countries are readying atomic arsenals, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper said.

Quoting unnamed U.S. intelligence and Defence Department sources, the newspaper said spy satellites had photographed armed convoys leaving Pakistani nuclear complexes at Kahuta, near Islamabad, and heading for military airfields.

The film also showed what analysts believed to be nuclear bomb racks being fitted to Pakistani F-16 aircraft.

The newspaper's defence correspondent in Washington said the Soviet Union had informed U.S. authorities that India appeared to be putting nuclear weapons on alert as part of its preparations for war.

Burmese vote for new assembly

RANGOON (R) — After a campaign fraught with intimidation and harassment, Burmese voters turned out in huge numbers Sunday for National Assembly elections amid doubts over whether the military government would surrender power to the winners.

Dressed in their smartest Longyi skirts and clutching identity cards, voters formed orderly lines outside converted government offices and schools across the dilapidated capital.

"The army has already made these polls pretty meaningless," one diplomat said.

NLD officials said people still regarded the elections as a chance to show their opinion of the military.

"People are very eager to have the elections and their sentiment is pushing us on," Khin Maung Swe said.

The 20 million voters are choosing from more than 2,300 candidates from 93 parties or independents for 485 seats. Only three or four parties pose a serious challenge to the government-backed National Unity Party (NUP).

The most charismatic opposition figure, NLD Secretary

General Aung San Suu Kyi, was confined to her home in a tree-lined Rangoon street after 10 months of house arrest. Officials said she would be allowed to cast her vote in a sealed envelope.

"She is the symbol of our democracy. People, especially in the remote areas, look to her to bring democracy to Burma," Khin Maung Swe said.

The NLD's other senior leader, Tin Oo, who led street demonstrations two years ago, is in jail.

The military State Law and Order Restoration Council was adamant the elections would be fair, although its leader refused to specify the procedure for surrendering power.

"I will transfer power according to the law," said General Saw Maung. "I have already abided by my promises."

Military leaders earlier promised to hand over power to the victors. Recently, they said a new constitution must be passed and a stable government formed first.

Three other ministers turned up at polling booths without an armed escort, despite frequent government charges that dissident sabotage teams planned to disrupt the poll.



A group of people, possibly soldiers or police, standing in a line.

## COLUMN

### One trip to the top 'is enough' for Peter Hillary

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — One trip to the top was enough for the son of the first climber of Mount Everest. Peter Hillary says he'll stick to smaller rocks in the future. Hillary reached the top of the 29,029-foot (8,854-metre)-high mountain on May 10 with Robert Hall and Gary Ball, all members of a New Zealand team. His father, Sir Edmund Hillary, first scaled Everest 37 years ago and Peter had been trying to climb it for the last eight years. He failed in his three previous attempts due to unfavourable weather and fatigue. "The Himalayas are a serious place. If you don't get down, you are a dead man. The summit is only half the way," Peter Hillary said. "Now I have done my job on Everest in spite of extreme cold and fatigue, and this means we can move on to some other mountains. But not to that huge mountain again."

Sinatra joins Newman in pasta sauce business

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Another pair of blue eyes will be hitting the supermarket — Frank Sinatra has joined Paul Newman in the pasta sauce business. Sinatra unveiled his three varieties of sauce — tomato basil with parmesan, Milano style and marinara with mushrooms — during a gathering Monday evening at Melrose Avenue's trendy Morton's Restaurant. Grocery stores in Nevada and northern California have been selling the jars for months. The Sinatra sugo da tavola Italian sauce hit southern California markets this week. "Our family has always favoured simply cooked sauces made with the freshest ingredients," Sinatra said. "It's a kick having our sauce in the market and terrific when people tell us how much they like the taste." Asked what he thought about competing with "Newman's own" pasta sauce, Sinatra says he hopes both companies do well. Sinatra said his company shares its profits with charity.

Rocky V to be the last

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sylvester Stallone says this summer's Rocky V will be the last in the series because there is nothing more to say about the not-so-talkative palooka. "I have no more to say about the character, which is my alter ego, I can't deny that," Stallone said. So what's ahead for Stallone? "Right now," he said, "we're doing something ecological, which is the theme of the 1990s. Then I'd like to do a comedy." The movie's premiere is tentatively set for Nov. 15.

Biographer claims Elvis committed suicide

NEW YORK (AP) — A controversial biographer who stunned Elvis Presley fans in 1981 with his revelations about the drug habits of the rock 'n' roll king now says Presley committed suicide with a huge drug overdose. "It's the dream gone to nightmare. It's perfect. It's the archetypal rags to riches to rot story," writer Albert Goldman said as the presses were rolling on a Life magazine article in which he makes the claim. The story is getting prominent display in the June issue. "Thirteen years after the death of Elvis Presley new evidence points to an inescapable conclusion: suicide," reads a copy of the article, which was released in advance to reporters. A private autopsy conducted following Presley's death in August 1977 put the cause of death as a heart attack. Goldman, 67, did not return a telephone call seeking comment on Goldman's claim. Goldman, 67, has written a biography of Presley, "Elvis: The Man, the Myth, the Music," which was published in 1981. He portrayed the king as an obese, impotent drug addict incapable of taking care of himself. Goldman had written in "Elvis" that the singer died of an accidental overdose. But his observations, said David Stanley, Elvis' stepbrother and a fixture at Graceland, the late singer's home, that Presley had actually killed himself.

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